

did a fairly objective job and created a pretty good image for the Congress.

I can't quite buy Mr. Bennett's statement that assigning further matters of this kind to that committee would be an affront to the American people.

Mr. MARTIN. My mail indicates the opposite. They feel that we should set up a completely new committee in this area of ethics and standards of conduct, with broad powers to check into this entire field.

So my mail evidently is a little different from what you have received.

Mr. HAYS. I haven't had a single letter saying we should set up a separate committee.

Mr. MARTIN. That is all.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Matsunaga?

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is your view that the proposed select committee is not necessary, that it would be duplication?

Mr. HAYS. That is correct.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. It has been proposed by one member of the committee, I think, that one way of accomplishing the intended purpose would be to put section 2, beginning on page 2, as powers granted to the House Administration Committee. Has any proposal in writing been made to that effect by way of a resolution?

Mr. HAYS. I know of none for certain, Mr. Matsunaga. I understand one member of this committee has a substitute resolution prepared. He told me this but I did not see a copy of it, which would do that very thing.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. What is your view, that this would accomplish what is intended by this resolution?

Mr. HAYS. Yes, that is my view. You can get in personalities and it has been said that referring it to us would be sweeping it under the rug. I can't quite see how anybody can in good conscience say that when we did not sweep the Powell matter under the rug. We could not have had any hearings. That would have been the easy way out.

I again say to you, gentlemen, that this was not an easy task and it was not a pleasant task and it was not one that I think that anyone would want. It was a necessary task as I viewed it and as the subcommittee viewed it, and we did it.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. No further questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Latta, do you have any questions?

Mr. LATTA. Just a couple, Mr. Chairman.

Let me say first of all, Wayne, that I join all these Members around this table in commending you and your subcommittee for the tremendous job that you did in the very short time that you had on this Powell matter.

I think, as you have indicated, that if the committee had not taken the steps that it did when it did, this mess would really have gotten out of hand and we would not have had the ad hoc committee established.

You have answered today a couple of questions that I had in my mind as to why your committee should not have the authority that you are requesting.