

I say I am not, and this is why I am here today to see that we follow through with meaningful action on ethics. The cold, hard fact is, nothing would have been done about the Powell case had the House been left to itself without the outcry and the press pointing its finger at the Congress and the public asking for action.

I am satisfied no meaningful action would have been taken against Powell without this outcry from the public and press. I think we can curb this and prevent such cases as the Powell case from happening and we need not have ex post facto rules.

I introduced a companion bill and I commend the 46 freshmen for all they have done. They have a red-hot issue and as far as I am concerned this is going to be a bipartisan group. If my party is smart, we will get behind this, too.

I think we can prevent this sort of thing because the public is demanding action.

I cannot see the fears here about Members being harassed by such a committee; personalities are not important.

Of course, we have lawyers and judges here in whom everyone has confidence they could handle this committee. The bar association is particularly apt. These things worked for years and nobody claims the lawyers are harassed by the bar. They are a shield to protect the innocent, not just a sword to punish the guilty.

I expect many of you have a newspaper editor back home making charges against your Members. I think it would be useful to have a committee and submit these charges to the committee and have it cleared up. I think there is strong sentiment here and in the House now to get some action on this question.

As the chairman said, the main problem is which route do you go, and I want to come down strongly on the side of a new committee, bipartisan committee, a select committee, and I think we should get the very best people.

Perhaps the resolution could provide in appointing the members of this new select committee the Speaker shall select at least some from the standing committee on House legislation so you would have a strong cross-pollination and cross-benefit of the expertise and background some of these people have on this select committee.

Sometimes it isn't too important what you do as how you do it. While I have great admiration for Mr. Hayes and others, what appears to be necessary is a select committee as the resolution provides for.

I am proud to serve in this institution and thank you. I hope I didn't run too much over my time.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Anderson?

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Do you think your resolution has any weakness, as I believe it does, when it says the complaint should be in writing and under oath, made by or submitted to a Member of the House, which, in turn, would submit it to the committee?

Mr. UDALL. This troubles me, but I think it is necessary that we should submit it in this fashion. So many people think this will be a roving committee, snooping into Members' affairs on the instigation of a crackpot back home. We know some Member will take the lead and make such a complaint when necessary. So while I might prefer as a purist and theorist not to have such a recommendation, I think it is necessary and I support it.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Udall.
Mr. Mathias.