

do not view the act of the Republican policy committee because we take a strong position on an issue as converting that into partisanship. I wonder where you can draw the line between party responsibility and partisanship. I think both parties and the Members of Congress in both parties have an obligation to take a position on this matter. Because the Republicans took the strong position they did doesn't convert it into a partisan issue. It will be the lack of action on the Democrats' part that would convert it into a partisan issue.

Mr. O'NEILL. Let me ask you this: What do you think the hue and cry would be against this committee if it went and made an investigation of either the committee to reelect the Democratic Congress or the committee to elect Republican Members, like your committee that raised a million dollars the other day. What do you think the feeling of the people would be if you attempted an investigation of that type?

Mr. GOODELL. I would not expect this committee to just go off in all directions investigating everything. I think the safeguards are fairly well stated in the Bennett resolution. I would expect them to recommend changes in the law or in the rules of the House or to make opinions on standards of conduct that they felt were proper.

I would not expect them to go investigating fundraising dinners of that nature. I do not think they would consider that in their immediate responsibility.

Mr. O'NEILL. There has been considerable talk here about elections and funds concerning elections. The individual who would try to run his own fundraising party, or a group of his friends, who would run such a party for him, would be investigated; while if a political party like the Republican organization, runs a party, the candidate is under an umbrella of protection.

Mr. GOODELL. I think this is in the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Ethics and would be a matter for them to make recommendations for changes in the law. Here again I would make the point that their jurisdiction in terms of new laws or new standards of conduct should be prospective—or in the future. I would not expect them to go out and investigate things of that nature if they were not violations of law or violations of the clear rules and regulations of the House.

They would then have the obligation of recommending changes in the law or in our rules, or perhaps adoption of very specific rules of conduct in this House that would cover this.

Mr. O'NEILL. Let me ask you one more question. With regards to the patronage of this committee, the chairman of the committee will be a real powerful man.

Under the procedure which we have here, the chairman authorizes the ranking minority member to pick his man and he (the chairman) then picks the balance of the staff himself. The chairman will be a tremendously powerful man. By a mere wink at his chief counsel he can cause an investigation of A or B and possibly destroy him. In view of that fact, how do you think the patronage ought to be handled?

Mr. GOODELL. I think the committee itself should make its decision on this matter. I would hope it would be a nonpartisan staff. I would hope that the Republican ranking member would be consulted by the Democratic chairman and that they would proceed jointly in