

committee is a committee of original jurisdiction in that matter, and if the committee and the House saw fit to amend the rules to do just what the gentleman from California has suggested might be done, and hopes would be done—if I am not putting words in his mouth—I think it could be done.

It would be a little precedent breaking possibly, but I certainly think this committee has the authority to recommend in an appropriate resolution such procedure, and that there would be nothing that would prohibit it if the House saw fit to do it.

I just throw that in for what it is worth. Thank you.

Mr. SISK. That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BURLESON. Mr. Chairman, if I may comment, I suppose we could do anything we wanted to insofar as rules are concerned. In this instance it would seem to me to be, as you say, precedent breaking and rather awkward.

I would not have any particular objection to the committee being divorced from the parent committee, but I would not agree that the full committee should have or be responsible for the subcommittee's actions. If there is responsibility there should also be authority.

The CHAIRMAN. What it would amount to would be the setting up a committee within a committee with certain specific jurisdictions, and it would certainly obviate the setting up of another standing committee. When we get into that I would just like to point out that this committee in its cramped quarters here tried some time ago to get additional space around here because we are too crowded.

Incidentally, we do not have filing room here now for all of the resolutions that have been introduced on this question, and I found there was no space available except I finally found a room over in the basement of the Rayburn Building where we could function as best we could, far divorced from this committee room.

There are questions of distance and convenience. I do not care to belabor that any further at this point.

Mr. Latta?

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chairman, I would like for just a couple of seconds to go back and explore this change that was made in your committee after this matter of the ethics committee creation as a separate committee arose, and ask you if you had it to do over would you be a part of creating a committee well knowing that you did not have the jurisdiction to create that subcommittee, Mr. Burleson?

Mr. BURLESON. Let me understand you. On the Subcommittee on Contracts—

Mr. LATTA. Right.

Mr. BURLESON. If we expanded the subcommittee in anticipation that your committee would grant this additional duty to the House administration?

Mr. LATTA. Yes.

Mr. BURLESON. Probably not, by making it bipartisan or nonpartisan, probably not.

On the other hand, it has a practical aspect in the responsibility we already have. As I said, we expect to set up this preaudit operation, we are in the process of that now, and some other reforms which would expand its activity—not its authority, but activity—that we have not heretofore done.