

By doing that, I think it is consistent with the work we already have.

Mr. LATTA. This raised a lot of eyebrows, and mine were among them. Wayne Hays testified, and you agree with what he said, that you did not have the authority to create an ethics subcommittee.

Now, after the fact you have come to this committee. If you are going to attempt to do the job you have to get additional authority. It seems to me you have the cart before the horse and I would hope in the future as these things arise that we get the horse before the cart.

Actually, as a member of this committee I felt a little bit slighted that you did not come before the committee and say, "We need new authority."

Mr. BURLESON. I would say we could create as many subcommittees in our committee as we wanted, without coming to this committee.

Mr. LATTA. This is on the matter of ethics. You agree you need the additional authority.

Mr. BURLESON. If you want us to do the complete job.

Mr. LATTA. That is the point I am trying to get across. You lack the authority to act which you need if your new subcommittee is to be effective.

Mr. BURLESON. That is part of it, and also the \$50,000 that was asked for the operation. That is true. I was asked that question the other day in the appropriation of the money to the committee.

We would not need that much money unless we do get this authority we would not expend it if we do not.

As I said, I am completely objective about this. I just say this, that from a practical standpoint with the responsibility our committee already has this added responsibility, with clarity, should be given it.

I do not mean to be facetious about it, either, but I would say this: With the responsibility we already have, another committee set up, an ad hoc or special committee, will have to come to the House Administration Committee for its information on expenditures from the contingent fund. That just follows. It would have to. That is the only place it is.

As I say, it is a practical matter, but I see nothing inconsistent with our having established this committee as we did. As it relates to this authority here, I see nothing inconsistent at all about our taking this action.

We could dissolve it if we find we did not need to do this additional duty, or we could drop it back to the three and four, as I think it was constituted, rather than five.

Mr. LATTA. Leading to the next statement, you have undoubtedly read, as I have, accounts that have been written saying this was merely an effort to head off the creation of a separate committee on ethics.

If we support your action the press will probably write that the Rules Committee went along with the idea not to create an ethics committee.

Now, getting to this matter of five and five on the subcommittee.

Mr. BURLESON. If I may interrupt you there, I am just assuming we are going to have one somewhere, and we ought to get ready for it.

Mr. LATTA. I assume that is right.

Getting to this five and five distribution, which I think is commendable. In answer to the question from the gentleman from California,