

wanted to sweep this under the rug, it would make a bipartisan committee to deal with it.

Then you would have no partisan responsibility for it. If this is as great a problem throughout the country, and I am satisfied it is, then it should be such an issue that Presidents rise and fall on, Congresses rise and fall on, something that the American people can get to, if they want to.

They are not going to do it with a bipartisan thing, because if you vote one party out and the other in you have more of the same. We have seen that in foreign aid.

I think under your plan you have sort of a compromise that might meet both ends and your subcommittee being a nonpartisan committee will act sort of as a trial court, and then your main committee, the parent committee, being a partisan committee, will still have to assume partisan responsibility for what it passes on to the House.

So we might be accomplishing both of these things. My disposition now, for many reasons, is to go ahead and establish this authority and responsibility with certain injunctions for your committee to follow.

We can create a special committee by the snap of a finger if we desire to do it, and we can do that at any time. My present disposition is to do that, and I just wish you a great deal of luck in what you are taking on.

That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BURLESON. Mr. Chairman, if I may comment briefly, this is something we would have to consider eventually, and maybe now: If it is the judgment of this committee that this matter should be placed in the House Administration Committee, we should be given a period of time, to come up with guidelines to define our intentions. Members of Congress should present their ideas as to what limitations should be placed around this thing and how to close some ends and build some fences and say, "This is the area in which you operate."

I think it is along the lines, John, that you are talking about. Let us not have the gates wide open permitting all sorts of tangents.

If we have the time to hear every Member of Congress who wants to come before that committee, with their ideas as to what should be done, what limitations, what authority, and measure of control, and all this sort of thing, and then come back to your committee for whatever change in the rules is necessary.

The CHAIRMAN. I would like to make an observation. We are committed, and the committee agreed to hear the Ways and Means Committee this morning.

We are perfectly willing to stay here, or we can go ahead as we are proceeding to do. It is what you want to do, but I am just going to suggest that if there is going to be further extensive questioning of this witness that possibly we had better cease this particular operation now and hear this other bill and then come back tomorrow.

The Chair is very much in hopes that we can wind up these hearings tomorrow on the Ethics Committee.

Mr. Pepper, did you have some questions?

Mr. PEPPER. I have some questions, Mr. Chairman, but in view of the desire to hear the Ways and Means Committee here, and other witnesses, I will defer until tomorrow. I think that would be best.