

If the Congressmen fail to talk and speak up, of course we cannot blame the news media for not reporting, but when they do speak up, then the news media—and as I look at you here, you people may report, but who on the cutting desk, the editor's desk, cuts it out? When you get onto television and they cut it on the floor and it is not viewed? And when you report it for the wire services and it never goes out on the wires? The net result is there. And the net result is there on this issue, the Powell case.

I have seen a shameful example of news reporting here. And if the constituency, mine and elsewhere, does not get the true message, what happened—not drawing your conclusions, but what happened then the constituency cannot judge well. For example, the New York Times had a full page and a long part on a back page, reporting the debate in the Powell case and not one word that I said in the 4 minutes that was granted to me to debate the position on the floor was reported. Yet I was the one who offered the resolution which was adopted.

The Washington Post, and so on, not one word. Plenty was said about Mr. Celler's expressed views, and other points of view. Not one word, though, by, or about, the arguments advanced by the person who offered the resolution that prevailed. When you have this kind of inadequate reporting, believe me we are in serious difficulty, and we are in serious difficulty in my judgment, very, very serious.

If anyone reviewing the record of that debate thought that there were racial tones in it, let them say so. Anyone reviewing that debate and thinking that it was not conducted on a high level of discussing issues, let them say so.

Regretably we have had Members of Congress make statements to the effect that this was a hysterical kind of debate, and that this had racial overtones, and I have got the news clippings of their statements, too. This was a considered debate and racism was not in evidence.

The CHAIRMAN. Anything further?

Mr. MATSUNAGA. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Curtis.

Mr. Reid, the committee will be glad to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF OGDEN R. REID, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am very appreciative of the opportunity and privilege of testifying before your committee. I will be very brief, because I know Chairman Aspinall and members of his distinguished committee are here and I am not unmindful of your injunction.

Permit me, Mr. Chairman, to say that I also have had the good fortune to attend not a few of these hearings of the Rules Committee, and I would like to commend you and the members of this committee for the thoughtfulness, the diligence, and the time that you have given to this very important subject.

Mr. Chairman, in my judgment it is imperative that the Congress act decisively and with dispatch to restore public confidence in the integrity of the Congress.