

ators when they retire. As a matter of fact, they are purchasing it. It is retirement. That is all it is.

That is all I have.

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gibbons?

(There was no response.)

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Burleson, I do not think we finished with you the other day. I think there were questions that members of the committee wanted to propound to you, and if you would resume your seat we will proceed.

**STATEMENT OF HON. OMAR BURLESON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS**

Mr. BURLESON. I have nothing else to present, Mr. Chairman. I present myself for any further interrogation.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Pepper?

Mr. PEPPER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There were a few matters that I wanted to call to the attention of the able gentleman. You made a good statement, and we all have great respect for you and your committee, but I was just thinking over some of the cases that I have known about which have been of the character to bring discredit on the Congress and the sort of thing that naturally would be the subject of consideration by an ethics committee.

One was, there was a Member of the Congress who was convicted a few years ago of kickbacks from his employees. As I understand it, that was probably not in the regular routine something to come before your committee. I do not know, but that, of course, is covered by law, that is a violation of law. But it seemed to me that if there were an ethics committee, if there is an employee who is being required to kick back by some employer, that would be the place where the criticism would anonymously, or otherwise, go.

In other words, they would know whom to go to if they were being pressured by some employer about a kickback.

In the Ames and Smith cases of bribery, censured by the Senate a good many years ago—or by the House—that was a case where these men solicited their colleagues to buy stock at a reduced price as part of the credit mobilier, which was considered as an attempt to bribe them to give aid to legislation for railroad construction.

That would not come within the scope of your committee unless we were to give express authority to the committee, but that sort of thing would have been whispered about and would have become knowledge to a great many people that that was going on, and in the absence of some kind of a committee to report to it might have been difficult to bring it out into the open.

Of course, there was a case in the Senate where a Member of the Senate got appointed to the staff of the committee that was writing tariff legislation a representative of the manufacturers' association of his State, with whom he had a close relationship.

Now, that kind of thing could happen here in the House, and there again that would not, as I understand it, that kind of a case would not come to your committee unless it were given special jurisdiction.