

Mr. PATMAN. In other words, they would have to say they had Congress in their hip pocket and if they could vote Congress like they wanted to they could guarantee it.

Mr. HATHAWAY. Congress, I know, would be very difficult.

Mr. PATMAN. Yes, sir. I have served with over 3,000 Members of Congress since I have been in Congress and you just do not find finer and better people on earth than you find in the Congress of the United States.

I have never known a Representative that I personally did not like. I realize that when these Representatives get together they get meanness in their heads.

Mrs. GREEN. Congressman Thompson.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I would like to join with my colleagues in congratulating you on your long service, Mr. Patman.

Mr. PATMAN. Thank you, sir.

Mr. THOMPSON. You have been here since almost before I was born. You have certainly learned a great deal. I am particularly amused by the use of the word "shills" in your statement because I called a group of people shills after a hearing a couple of years ago and it cost me \$3,000 in legal fees to defend myself against a million dollar libel suit. I made the mistake, however, of saying it in the Hall. Ultimately, the decision was handed down in my favor but it cost me that much money.

Mr. PATMAN. I hope you did not lose any votes on it.

Mr. THOMPSON. No. As a matter of fact, I gained some.

Without having the opportunity yet to see the GAO report which I am looking forward to seeing, I have been particularly interested by your statement and also by that of your friend Dr. Walker. I have his statement before me in which he said that each of the examples involving four loans in 1 college year established to him that 6 percent interest is unfair and that it is unproductive to the banks and, therefore, this conversion fee ought to be allowed.

But we are going to have to take a good hard look at that statement and the GAO report before we make our ultimate decision. In my judgment, the possibility of the Congress establishing a multi-million dollar revolving fund and appropriating for it at this time is absolutely out of the question.

Mr. PATMAN. It is just one alternative, my dear sir.

Mr. THOMPSON. I know, and I am intrigued by your pension fund alternative and some other possibilities. I would suppose that if we're to put a Vietnam tag on the revolving fund it would go through on the consent calendar, but very little else will.

I have no further comment except to thank you very, very much for a very thoughtful and provocative, as the chairlady called it, statement. Thank you.

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you very, very much, Mr. Patman. We appreciate your counsel.

Mr. PATMAN. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Mrs. GREEN. The next witness before the committee is the president of the United Student Aid Funds, Mr. Alan Marshall. He will be accompanied by a friend of this committee, Mr. McCabe.

Mr. Marshall, will you proceed as you wish in presenting your testimony.