

76TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 77

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 1939

Mr. KELLER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Whereas a Special Committee to Investigate un-American Activities was appointed by the House of Representatives (H. Res. 282) ; and

Whereas said committee has held public hearings during which witnesses have been permitted to make wild and malicious charges against individuals and organizations as to alleged un-American activities; and

Whereas the special committee made absolutely no attempt to investigate the creditability or reliability of any of the witnesses, required no written documentary or supporting proof of any of the charges, and permitted innocent individuals and liberal and progressive organizations to be maligned and vilified; and

Whereas no individual or organization so unfairly accused was ever afforded an opportunity to face their accusers or even

to present their denials of the charges, though pleading with the committee for the opportunity, thereby being denied their day in court and being convicted of the charges without even the semblance of a fair proceeding; and

Whereas it has been publicly discovered and not denied by the special committee that their chief investigator, Edward Francis Sullivan, has had a past unscrupulous police record, has participated as a strikebreaker, and has actively engaged in anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic activities; and

Whereas the special committee has therefore violated every fundamental principle and constitutional right of American citizens in its proceedings, thereby casting a serious reflection upon the House of Representatives, holding up its Members to public scorn and ridicule: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives will not
2 and cannot appropriate any additional funds to the aforesaid
3 special committee, since such additional appropriation would
4 constitute an affirmative approval by the House of Repre-
5 sentatives of the subversive un-American activities of said
6 special committee.

7 SEC. 2. That the Speaker of the House of Representa-
8 tives be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint a new
9 special committee to be composed of eleven members, for
10 the purpose of conducting an investigation of—

11 (a) The extent and character of the espionage and
12 other un-American activities subsidized or promoted by
13 foreign governments who are opposed to the form and

1 principles of American democracy and seek to undermine
2 our democratic institutions; and

3 (b) The extent and character of activities engaged in
4 by native American groups who collaborate with and are
5 aided by any foreign government seeking to overthrow the
6 American Government through force and violence.

7 SEC. 3. That said new special committee forthwith hold
8 public hearings to immediately afford an opportunity to any
9 individual or organization which feels aggrieved because of
10 charges made and requests the opportunity to present its
11 answering testimony and evidence.

12 SEC. 4. That the proceedings of said new special com-
13 mittee shall at all times be conducted in a fair and impartial
14 manner, affording an opportunity to all persons and organi-
15 zations who are accused and charged with any of the afore-
16 said activities to controvert the same with relevant testimony.

17 SEC. 5. That said special committee, or any subcom-
18 mittee thereof, is hereby authorized to sit and act during the
19 present Congress at such times and places within the United
20 States, whether or not the House is sitting, has recessed, or
21 has adjourned, to hold such hearings, to require the at-
22 tendance of such witnesses and the production of such books,
23 papers, and documents, by subpena or otherwise, and to take
24 such testimony, as it deems necessary. Subpenas shall be
25 issued under the signature of the chairman and shall be

1 served by any person designated by him. The chairman of
2 the committee or any member thereof may administer oaths
3 to witnesses. Every person who, having been summoned
4 as a witness by authority of said committee, or any subcom-
5 mittee thereof, willfully makes default, or who, having ap-
6 peared, refuses to answer any question pertinent to the in-
7 vestigation heretofore authorized, shall be held to the penalties
8 provided by section 102 of the Revised Statutes of the
9 United States (U. S. C., title 2, sec. 192).

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To provide for a new Special Committee to
Investigate Un-American Activities.

By Mr. KELLER

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