

OLD FEUD ERUPTS ON HOUSE'S FLOOR

Feighan Calls on Celler to
Resign From Joint Panel

By CABELL PHILLIPS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 9—An old Congressional feud boiled over on the floor of the House of Representatives today as the two top men on the Judiciary Committee had at one another with hot words and scornful disdain.

The aggressor was Representative Michael A. Feighan of Ohio, the second-ranking Democrat on the committee and the jealous chairman of its Subcommittee on Immigration.

His target was Representative Emanuel Celler of Brooklyn, the spry 77-year-old dean of the House, who is chairman of the Judiciary Committee and prides himself on being as much of an immigration expert as his junior colleague from Ohio.

Mr. Feighan rose on the floor today to read a letter he had written Mr. Celler demanding that he resign from the Joint Senate-House Committee on Immigration and Nationality Policy.

In bristling tones, he accused the New Yorker of using "disruptive efforts" and "misrepresenting the facts" in opposing an appropriation for the joint committee.

Mr. Celler, a man often given to loquacity, heard his antagonist out and then informed the chair icily: "To what the gentleman from Ohio says, I give the thunder of my silence."

Three-Year Quarrel

That was the end of the debate, but it obviously is not the end of a feud that has been a conspicuous feature of the life in the House for more than three years. Its consequences have been felt in an air of unease and embarrassment that pervades the staff and membership of the 35-man Judiciary Committee, and in the lagging pace with which it has dealt this year with a major reform in the immigration laws.

The immediate cause of the controversy is that Mr. Celler takes a dim view of the Joint Committee on Immigration and Nationality Policy, while its chairman, Mr. Feighan, regards it very highly.

The committee was authorized under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 to coordinate research activities for the benefit of House and Senate committees dealing with immigration matters.

It has remained moribund for most of the time since, until Mr. Feighan revived it last year by securing an appropriation of \$20,000 to hire a staff director and acquiring for himself the title of chairman.



Associated Press

SCORES CELLER: Representative Michael A. Feighan, Democrat from Ohio.

Asked \$120,000

This year, Chairman Feighan asked an appropriation of \$120,286 so the joint committee could hire more staff and get some research projects under way. Mr. Celler did not attend the House Appropriation hearing, and the money request went through.

But the New Yorker was on hand four weeks ago when the Senate Appropriations Committee met to consider the request. He told the Senators that the joint committee had been ill-conceived in the first place; that it had met once 15 years ago for a session lasting four minutes and had never been convened again; that it was not capable of doing anything that the regular House and Senate committees on integration were not capable of doing themselves, and that he saw no use in trying to revive it.

He said he regretted he had been unable to attend the House Appropriation hearings so that he could have put an end to the matter there. And then he added:

"A reading of the testimony given by my distinguished colleague of the Judiciary Committee, the gentleman from Ohio reveals that he did not face the issue but rather indulged himself in an attack on personalities, including members of the staff and unfortunately of myself.

"I had no wish to dignify such testimony by replying. I thought it would be well to

give it the thunder of my silence."

The Senators apparently were impressed with Mr. Celler's thunder. When they reported out the legislative appropriation bill recently, Mr. Feighan's request for the joint committee had been whittled down to \$24,000.

Demands Resignation

In the letter addressed to Mr. Celler and read on the House floor today, Mr. Feighan said he was requesting the New Yorker's resignation as a member of the joint committee for these reasons:

"You have stated that you oppose any and all efforts of the committee to fulfill its statutory function;

"Your disruptive efforts to prevent Congress from discharging its responsibilities for regulating immigration;

"You have continued to misrepresent the facts concerning the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization of which I am chairman.

"You have stated your intention to obstruct the work of the joint committee.

"Under any code of ethics you have disqualified yourself from membership on the joint committee. I request therefore that you submit your resignation therefrom to the Speaker of the House."