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GERALD R. FORD, JR.

*Speeches H of R 1*

MR. SPEAKER - Ever since the Communist aggression in Korea, there has been a growing dislocation of our economy resulting from both artificial and real scarcities of basic raw materials. The Department of Defense has been hampered in the procurement of essential military equipment. The housewife has been forced to pay unconscionable prices for daily family needs. Legitimate businessmen, particularly those operating small plants, have been jeopardized in the operation of their concerns. With the increased demands of our rearmament program this condition will inevitably become more critical.

A substantial portion of this disruption has occurred because of unscrupulous black-marketing. Numerous complaints by responsible parties have come to my attention. For example, in one case a regular check for the materials purchased must be sent to the supplier and then cash paid "on the side" for the black-market mark-up. Steel is apparently available but only at outrageous prices. Fly-by-night suppliers have steel while those who have been in business for long periods cannot obtain even a fair share. The situation in steel is atrocious and must be remedied.

Under the Defense Production Act of 1950 which Congress approved in September of last year, the executive branch of the federal government does have authority to cope with this very serious problem. However, the Congress itself does have a continuing obligation to investigate conditions of this sort. I believe that this job can best be accomplished by the Congress by setting up a select committee to scrutinize and police certain activities related to the defense effort. Therefore, I am today introducing a resolution which would create a select committee to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of, and methods of preventing, the black-marketing of materials essential to the defense program.

Those responsible for and participating in the black-market while our youth are fighting for our country should be exposed and punished. The committee



after a comprehensive investigation of such reprehensible conduct should recommend to the Senate and House new legislation, if necessary, for a full crack-down on such gougers who are hindering the rearmament effort.



### RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, That there is hereby created a select committee to be composed of seven Members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker, one of whom he shall designate as chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

The committee is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of the extent of, and methods of preventing, the black-marketing of materials essential to the defense program.

The committee shall report to the House (or to the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session) as soon as practicable during the present Congress the results of its investigation and study, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable.

For the purpose of carrying out this resolution the committee, or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the committee to hold hearings, is authorized to sit and act during the present Congress at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, and to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents, as it deems necessary. Subpoenas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of the committee or any member of the committee designated by him, and may be served by any person designated by such chairman or member.

### RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, That the expenses of the investigation and study to be conducted by the select committee created by H. Res. \_\_\_\_\_, not to exceed \$50,000.00, including expenditures for the employment of investigators, attorneys, and clerical, stenographic, and other assistants, shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House on vouchers authorized by such committee, signed by the chairman thereof, and approved by the Committee on House Administration.





GERALD R. FORD, JR.

SPEECHES HJR

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