

the members of the Judiciary Committee and staff who worked hard and produced an amendment as rational and cohesive as these committee amendments are. But it always troubles me, and I have a difficult time supporting an issue, an effort which is undertaken not only in response to something that happened, a specific thing, but which is still pending. Personally, I feel that the Legislature has been put over a barrel through the incompetency at best, negligence at semi-best, and deliberate, intentional refusal to carry out responsibilities at worst. I've watched what has happened with this investigation. At first I was a member of the committee. I watch from a greater distance now and I see things in the prosecutorial realm that still trouble me. Any of you who paid attention to what I said, when they were talking about appointing former Judge Van Pelt, know that I was strongly opposed to his selection. Now it comes out that he hasn't been able to attend the grand jury meetings because he's a hearing officer for the State Health Department, and he's conducting hearings for the State Health Department when he's supposed to be the special prosecutor. And I had said they're going to make a joke out of the whole thing by putting him there. That's one of the factors that I was not aware of at the time they appointed him. How in the world is that more important than this grand jury in Douglas County which was called under great pressure that was felt by the Attorney General? We have a situation where one person who is faced a charge, and every Douglas County judge recused himself from that person's case. There have been indications that this person may have somehow been involved with Franklin. Every time something very unusual or extraordinary or unexplainable happens in some sector of the criminal justice system it's connected with Franklin. And every time it happens we're given some cock and bull explanation. How can Judge Buckley, and I said that Judge Buckley didn't intend to see the thing handled properly, and I say it again, if he's going to let the special prosecutor undertake work that does not approach this grand jury work in importance. Suppose the special prosecutor for the Watergate study said, well, you know, I got a case before an administrative tribunal relative to one of my client's partnership matters, so I've got to go and do that and somebody else do the work of the special prosecutor. The Legislature is being laughed at, the public is being given a slap in the face, and I think Judge Buckley's conduct is totally inexcusable. He knew this, he knew Van Pelt was not going to give his time to the grand jury, he knew he had another job to do. And I call this bordering on unethical conduct. But it will never be