

April 9, 1990

investigation. To that end, we have not authorized our counsel, or our investigator to make public comments about the status of our investigation, except where our silence would leave a false impression with the public. There are those who claim to know what the committee has uncovered, and there are those who, without any basis in fact, comment on what they believe the committee has uncovered in its investigation. The fact is, Mr. Chairman, only the committee knows what the committee has uncovered, and I am pleased to report to you that we have turned over all of our work product to the Douglas County Grand Jury, and the Federal Grand Jury investigating matters related to the failure of Franklin Credit Union. Although our investigation is continuing, it is being coordinated with the current investigations being conducted by law enforcement. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, we are not able to report to you whether or how the information is being utilized because all of the cooperation is one way, that is from the committee to law enforcement. Part of the information we turned over to law enforcement was 21 hours of video-taped statements given to the committee from three witness/victims. Although this information was turned over in November of 1989, recently, the print and broadcast media have been making public disclosures of portions, or transcripts, of the video-taped statements of the three victim/witnesses. These disclosures trouble the committee. I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that no one connected with the Franklin investigation has directly or indirectly given copies of the tapes to any of the media. The committee continues to insist that prior to law enforcement's being provided the tapes, there were no leaks about the tapes, nor were there any published reports concerning even the evidence (sic) of the tapes. We have recently read comments that the United States Attorney is upset about the leak of the tapes and the media's publication of the tapes. The United States Attorney was not heard to complain about leaks or press reports about allegations that some of the witnesses were given and failed FBI polygraphs, and expressed no concern about media disclosures which attempted to discredit the witnesses' testimony and thereby the integrity of the committee's work. However, recent disclosures on television which support the credibility of the statements and the propriety of the committee's work are now met with outrage. Mr. Speaker, the inconsistency is glaring. The committee has given serious thought to a full public disclosure of the tapes. However, consistent with the committee's initial desire to maintain the integrity of its investigation and not further compromise the rights of the victims, or those they accuse, the