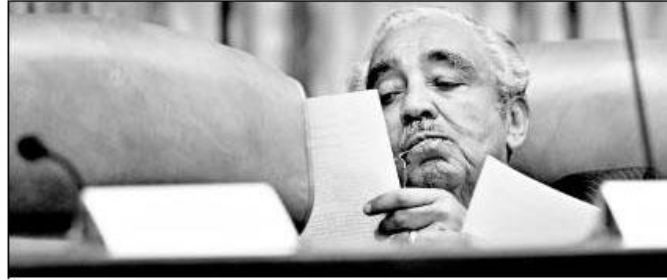


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“Rangel keeps post as panel inquiry grows”

By Andrew M. Seaman



By Paul J. Richards, AFP/Getty Images

Rangel: New York Democrat chairs the Ways and Means Committee.

Rangel keeps post as panel inquiry grows

By Andrew M. Seaman
USA TODAY

The House ethics committee said Thursday that it is expanding its investigation of Rep. Charles Rangel, a day after Republicans failed for the third time to remove the New York Democrat from the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee.

For a year, the committee has been concentrating on alleged financial improprieties and fundraising irregularities, including failure to pay taxes. In a statement, the panel said it will also look at previously unreported assets and income.

Rangel recently changed his financial disclosure reports showing assets and income from 2002 to 2006 that should have been reported in those earlier years.

“Today’s announcement is nothing new,” said Emile Milne, a Rangel spokesman. “It is clear that the committee is being very thorough and deliberative in its process.”

House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, again urged House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to remove Rangel from his powerful post atop the tax-writing committee. “The American

people won’t stand for having a chairman . . . who is under investigation for not paying his taxes,” he said.

Nadeam Elshami, a spokesman for Pelosi, said: “We are confident the committee will conduct a thorough review and then report to the full House.”

The committee outlined its investigation, stressing that it has been conducted in a bipartisan manner. About 150 subpoenas have been issued, 34 interviews conducted, more than 12,000 pages of documents analyzed and more than 30 investigative subcommittee meetings have been held, the panel said.

The panel is looking into whether Rangel violated gift rules, used official stationery to solicit potential donors and received a favorable deal to finance ownership in a Dominican resort. It is also looking into his use of rent-stabilized apartments and contributions to a public service center named for him.

On Wednesday, the House voted 246-153 along mostly partisan lines to refer a GOP resolution to the ethics panel calling for Rangel’s removal as chairman.

Contributing: Associated Press