

CREATING A SELECT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND CONDUCT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1967

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RULES,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:45 a.m., in room H-313, the Capitol, Hon. William M. Colmer (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order.

The committee has before it some 40 resolutions. These, House Resolution 18 and about 39 others, deal with the subject of setting up a select committee to set up a standard of ethics, honesty, conduct of the office of Members of Congress and House employees.

It will be recalled that last year the House did set up such a resolution which was headed by the distinguished gentleman from Florida, Mr. Bennett, and that committee functioned for some month or two and made a report.

For some reason there seems to be a great interest in this subject right now and, hence, the large number of resolutions that have been introduced.

Mr. Bennett has reintroduced his resolution, No. 18, and I think it would be well for the committee to hear from Mr. Bennett as chairman of that committee in just a moment.

If the time permits and the desires of the members exist, we will hear from other members who have had similar or unsimilar resolutions.

Mr. Pepper, before we hear from Mr. Bennett, I understand that you have another commitment and if you would like to make a brief statement, you may go ahead.

STATEMENT OF HON. CLAUDE PEPPER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. PEPPER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

I am on the Powell committee which is meeting now and absented myself to come here because of my deep interest in the subject that is before this committee.

I have before me the Gallup poll of February 5 which appeared in the Washington Post, or rather the Gallup poll which appeared in the Washington Post of February 5. It said—the big headline is “Majority Favor Ouster of Powell, Fund Misuse Is Believed Common.” Then the first two paragraphs: