

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE CATHERINE MAY, FOURTH DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 71

Mr. Chairman and my distinguished colleagues, I wish to go on record in support of the pending resolutions before the Committee on Rules which would re-establish a Select Committee of the House of Representatives to be known as the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct.

My bill, H. Res. 71, was introduced the opening day of the new Congress, January 10, 1967.

Mr. Chairman, public office is a public trust, and I am sure that most Members of Congress recognize this by maintaining the highest standards of personal conduct. They recognize that the office a public servant holds belongs not to that individual but to the nation or state, as the case may be.

One of the greatest concerns which we all share is the damage done to the public image of the Congress by the questionable practices, intentional or not intentional, of a few. These actions of the few have, quite understandably, resulted in a great public indignation, and if we neglect what I consider to be the real problem—a need to tighten up Congressional standards and procedures out of which abuse of public office tends to grow—the public would have the right to be even more indignant.

A committee similar to the one proposed in the pending resolutions was created in the waning days of the last Congress and I was privileged to have been appointed to serve on that Select Committee. It was recognized, however, that the creation of that Select Committee came so late in the year that time was insufficient to carry out its responsibilities.

I have high hopes, Mr. Chairman, that this new legislation to create a Select Committee on Standards and Conduct will meet with swift approval.

STATEMENT OF HON. G. ELLIOTT HAGAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I wish to take the occasion of this meeting of the House Rules Committee to reaffirm my wholehearted support of the current move to establish a permanent "Select Committee on Standards and Conduct" of Members of the United States House of Representatives.

In the opening days of the 90th Congress, I introduced a measure, House Resolution 197, which is now before this Committee, calling for the establishment of such a select committee in this Session of Congress. I personally believe that the urgency in this matter cannot be over-emphasized. Unfavorable allegations and disclosures in recent months involving certain Members of Congress have only added to the general public's growing disillusionment with Congress. The American taxpayers have an inherent right to expect and demand the most exemplary standards from their elected representatives at the highest level of government. The aims and goals of such a select committee, as I visualize them, would be of a preventive, rather than a punitive nature. I concur with my colleague, the Honorable Charles E. Bennett, in his contention that any part of the House Administration Committee, because of its partisan complexion, could not properly function in this critical area. I urge your expeditious consideration of this vital matter.