

STATEMENT BY HON. HORACE R. KORNEGAY, SIXTH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, it is a distinct honor for me to have the opportunity and the privilege of presenting a statement to this Committee in regard to the matter now before you.

I am grateful to you for your courtesy in allowing me to present my views and I shall ask your indulgence for only a brief period to offer some of my observations on the most important subject any of us in the 90th Congress now face: the public image and the character of the Congress and the self respect of those of us privileged to serve in the Congress.

The reputation and the respect for the Congress and its members have suffered a reversal in the court of last resort, public opinion, and we are all now on probation in the eyes of the American public.

A much celebrated case of one particular elected Member of Congress has reflected to the discredit of every single member of the House of Representatives—and to every good public servant, everywhere. The public opinion polls—and certainly the correspondence that you and I receive—bear out the low esteem now held for as individual members and the great body we have the honor to serve in.

The American public has been shocked by public revelations concerning the apparent lack of ethics and morality in some areas of our Government including the Congress.

The American public wants and deserves a Congress composed of individuals whose conduct is both ethically and morally proper. I also subscribe to that philosophy for it is my opinion that those of us in the Congress who are responsible for passing upon laws that we all must follow should be as clean in our own personal conduct as Caesar's wife.

Therefore, I ask you to give your usual considerate attention to House Resolution 64, which I have introduced, and I commend this measure to you for your deliberation. H. Res. 64 is similar to H. Res. 18, offered by the Gentleman from Florida (The Honorable Charles E. Bennett) who has worked long and tirelessly in this endeavor, and to several other resolutions now pending before you.

Passage of legislation, such as H. Res. 64 which bears my name, or of similar legislation, would help restore the confidence of the American public in the Congress. Establishment of a Select Committee on Standards and Conduct in the House of Representatives is the very minimum the public expects of its elected representatives. The Congress enacted a Code of Ethics in 1958, but the code needs enforcement authority. The 89th Congress enacted legislation setting up such a committee, but gave it a short span of life, which died with the formation of the current Congress. It is my fervent hope and my humble plea to you on this Committee that this Congress will make this committee permanent and give it the tools it needs to do the job that is long behind schedule.

Again, I thank you for your time and your courtesy.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., February 20, 1967.

Hon. WILLIAM M. COLMER,
*Chairman, House Committee on Rules,
The Capitol.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I regret that previous commitments prevent me from appearing before the Rules Committee on Tuesday, February 21, 1967 at which time the Committee will hold a hearing on all bills to establish a House Select Committee on Standards and Conduct. I request that this letter be made a part of the record of that hearing.

On February 15, 1967 I introduced H. Res. 255 to establish a House Select Committee on Standards and Conduct. This legislation is identical to resolutions introduced by Congressman Charles E. Bennett and other Members of Congress. In my view, it is vital that this legislation be approved by your Committee and enacted by the House of Representatives. Although a Select Committee on Standards and Conduct was established pursuant to H. Res. 1013 in the 89th Congress, it never really had time to commence its assigned task.

Legislation establishing standards of conduct for Members of Congress and employees of the Congress is long overdue. Disclosures of questionable actions by some Members of Congress and congressional employees during the past sev-