

eral years have seriously undermined public confidence in the integrity of the Congress and those who serve in it.

We in Congress apply a very strict standard of conduct to the executive branch in an effort to avoid possible conflicts of interest. We certainly should do no less to avoid conflicts of interest within the Congress.

I would hope that one of the first tasks of a Select Committee on Standards and Conduct would be to recommend to the House of Representatives a code of ethics with enforcement provisions that would ensure compliance.

I urge the Committee on Rules to give prompt and favorable consideration to the resolutions to establish a Select Committee on Standards and Conduct.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. OTTINGER,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., February 16, 1967.

HON. WILLIAM M. COLMER,
*Chairman, Rules Committee,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On January 10, 1967, I introduced House Resolution 55, which has been referred to your Committee. This Resolution would create a Select Committee on Standards and Conduct.

I respectfully request that top priority consideration be given this resolution. It is important, I feel, that Congress now establish definitive standards of conduct and provide safeguards against their abuse. We must assure the people throughout the country that their trust will not be violated.

I would hope that the Standards and Conduct Committee could be made a permanent committee by including it under Rule 11 of the House of Representatives.

Your kind cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

DANTE B. FASCELL,
Member of Congress.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN E. S. JOHNNY WALKER, IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 154

Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure for me to appear here today before this Committee, and I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and all the other distinguished Members for this opportunity. I would like to apprise you of my opinion regarding the establishment of a House Select Committee on Standards and Conduct.

I have just returned from a brief visit to my home state of New Mexico. The three most frequent topics of conversation were Vietnam war, taxes, and Congressional behavior and ethics.

We Congressmen are the victims of what sociologists call "stereotyping." If we were asked to describe ourselves, we would probably give the description generally reserved for boy scouts—decent, hardworking, loyal, honest, etc. However, if we asked the general public to describe us, I fear we would get an answer which would more closely describe a cartoon character—inept, dishonest, loud-mouthed, opportunistic, etc.

About one out of every 400,000 people in this nation is a U.S. Representative at any given time, and I believe we are truly a representation of the entire population.

We are neither all virtuous, all the time, nor all totally lacking in virtue, all the time. Naturally, we would say we are more often than not doing what is best for our country.

In order to be most effective, we must have the respect and confidence of the people we represent.

Stereotypes are usually grossly unfair and inaccurate. But there is an apparent need or desire on the part of people generally to neatly categorize and label nationalities, races, religions, professions, sections and a multitude of other items.

Fortunately, stereotypes can be changed. But it is a slow and laborious process.