

Congress that such an unjustified and discreditable policy or practice could prevail in this House.

Second, such failure would seem to be avoiding the very well-intentioned questions put to individual Members by their constituents who somewhat fearfully seem to be asking for a forthright and believable refutation of scandalous rumors about misconduct of some or even many Members.

None of this is new to any Member of the House, even to those newly seated Members such as I who find ourselves appaled at the prospect of having this House needlessly and sadly compromised in actuality or in a general impression.

The House of Representatives can do justice to itself, its Members, Congressman Powell, and not least to all Americans, by adopting forthwith a viable Code by which we can all be judged and which can be impartially and equitably administered by an appropriate committee.

I have introduced H. Res. 223 which deals with this need, and I speak on behalf of it and similar legislation to accomplish the purpose.

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STATEMENT OF HON. SAMUEL S. STRATTON, OF NEW YORK

Mr. Stratton, Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the efforts to reestablish the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct and have introduced legislation, H. Res. 220, for this purpose. I commend our colleague from Florida, Mr. Bennett, for the leadership he has taken in behalf of this legislation.

I have been convinced for some time that a separate Committee should be established to develop standards for the conduct of Members and investigate reported violations in a calm and consistent manner. The committee should have as its sole purpose this important and delicate task so that it remains free from any other involvement as a Committee.

I believe the integrity of Congress and the confidence of the American public in their elected representatives is at stake. We cannot postpone exercising this responsibility any further.

Recent developments have demonstrated a need both for established standards of conduct and an established method of investigating reported irregularities. But this must be done on the basis of an established machinery, not on an ad-hoc or hit and miss basis. To help prevent unfortunate situations from developing and to deal with them before they so seriously threaten the public confidence in this foremost legislative body in the world, we should take this action without delay.

By establishing this Select Committee on Standards and Conduct these difficult matters can be handled in a way that will not impugn the integrity of Members wrongly accused but at the same time will deal effectively with violations that are clearly not in keeping with standards that should be adhered to by Members of the House.

I strongly urge the Committee to favorably report this legislation.

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STATEMENT BY HON. RICHARD T. HANNA

Mr. Chairman, I think we all know that House consideration of the legislation now being heard by the Rules Committee is long overdue. I am sure I'm not alone when I express my pleasure at the Rules Committee's early consideration of this housecleaning measure.

Democratic institutions by definition must find their foundations in the confidence of the people they represent. When an institution no longer commands the respect of the people it serves it should no longer play a meaningful role in the affairs of the society that created it.

While Congress is still a long way from total institutional alienation from the people it serves, we are, however, in the grips of a severe crisis of confidence. For example, a recent survey by Parade Magazine indicated that on a credibility scale of 10 of the people ranked Congressmen at level eight, one step above car salesmen.

The unfortunate circumstances surrounding the Adam Clayton Powell affair have pointed up our poor public image. Few issues in recent memory have pro-