

CREATING A SELECT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND CONDUCT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1967

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

The committee met at 11:30 a.m. on the subject, pursuant to recess, in room H-313, the Capitol, Hon. William M. Colmer (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will resume the hearing on House Resolution 18.

Mr. Stafford, the committee will be glad to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT T. STAFFORD, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT

Mr. STAFFORD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, so much has been said by the earlier witnesses on House Resolution 18 and so much has been developed in the dialog with this committee that I propose to make a very brief statement to the committee supporting House Resolution 18.

I appreciate this opportunity to appear before the Rules Committee in support of House Resolution 18 to establish a Select Committee on Standards and Conduct. On the opening day of this session I introduced identical legislation in the form of House Resolution 98. I did so as a member of the select committee established by the 89th Congress last fall to report on this matter to the present Congress. It was a high privilege to serve during the congressional recess on that committee on standards and conduct, even though our life as a committee was pretty short.

It seems to me that under the able chairmanship of our colleague, Hon. Charles Bennett, we did do the job we were authorized to do, resulting in House Resolution 18 which is now before you.

I sincerely hope and trust that the report issued and this resulting resolution will enable the House to give continued life to a permanent ethics committee. I strongly support this resolution for the following reasons:

It will be extremely helpful to Members and employees of the legislative branch to have the guidance of a code of standards and conduct reasonably to be expected of them. Such a code should only be enforced after adoption by the House itself.

Creation of a select committee with rules applying to all Members will help insure the confidence of the American public in the integrity of the Congress. As you know, the Senate has established a committee