

Mr. MATSUNAGA. I am a little confused. You say we dispensed with the Code of Ethics for Congress, but we still have it in effect for Government employees?

Mr. MATHIAS. Maybe dispensed is not the proper verb to have used. We didn't very vigorously wave it around and enforce it, but it is still in force as far as Government service is concerned. I think that is our problem.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. It has been proposed here by some of the advocates of the resolution creating the select committee that we do away with double standards. Now, if Federal employees are presently required to abide by the Code of Ethics, don't you feel that Members of Congress ought to comply with the code?

Mr. MATHIAS. Absolutely.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. And yet if you study the code, it is so broad, so ambiguous that it really sets no standard of conduct. Don't you agree as a lawyer?

Mr. MATHIAS. I think it needs some refinement. That is why I didn't object to the suggestion made by the gentleman from Illinois that the reference to it might be stricken from the resolution and that a new code, in light of our experience with this, might be developed which is more practical.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Don't you think at the same time we should make it applicable to Federal employees as well, to do away with double standards?

Mr. MATHIAS. I certainly agree that whatever code is adopted, it should be applied across the board insofar as there are no practical objections to it. Either this should be applied to us and all other Federal employees or we should have a new one which should apply to everyone.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Mathias.

The committee will go into executive session.

(At 12:35 p.m., the committee adjourned, to go into executive session.)