

CREATING A SELECT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND CONDUCT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1967

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

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

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

The committee will resume hearings this morning on House Resolution 18 and allied resolutions which I understand now have increased to about 75. The counsel advises me I am in error. It is around 100.

Mr. Goodell, the committee will be pleased to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF HON. CHARLES E. GOODELL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. GOODELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, my colleagues. I am here today as a spokesman for the Republican leadership. I would ask, Mr. Chairman, that the resolution of the House Republican policy committee adopted February 8, with reference to a Select Committee on Standards and Conduct be made a part of the record, if that is an order.

I am here more importantly, however, as a Member of Congress who reveres this institution. I have great respect for the membership of this House. I think I can state unabashedly I have never been associated with an aggregate of men and women for whom I have more respect. Under those circumstances, I think it is a painful and difficult task to talk about the problem of ethics and misconduct in our ranks.

I think all of us have dealt with the problem in recent weeks with a great deal of anguish. But having such pride in the House of Representatives, I feel it incumbent upon me, and I think it is incumbent on the membership, to take action.

Recently, a poll indicated that 88 percent of the citizens of this country were aware of the affairs of our colleague, Mr. Powell. Another poll disclosed that 60 percent of the people consider misuse of Government funds as a fairly common practice by Congressmen. I think this reflects a crisis of confidence in the Congress which we cannot ignore. We cannot satisfy ourselves with the defense that the public is wrong in its judgment of the Congress. I think we must face the unpleasant fact, as bluntly pointed out in the recent editorial