

(The resolution follows:)

HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE URGES ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECT
COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND CONDUCT

The House Republican Policy Committee urges the immediate establishment of a select Committee on Standards and Conduct.

This Committee should be composed of twelve Members divided evenly between the Majority and Minority parties. It should be empowered to recommend rules and regulations that it deems necessary to ensure proper standards of conduct by Members and by officers and employees of the House. It should have the authority to investigate alleged breaches of conduct, recommend appropriate action and report violations of law to the proper Federal and State authorities.

In the closing hours of the 89th Congress, a select Committee on Standards and Conduct was established. This was an important first step. Now, without further delay, this Committee should be reestablished.

Over the past few years, a handful of highly publicized allegations of misconduct against a few Members of Congress and a few employees have cast a dark cloud of doubt over the entire Congress. As long as this House does not have an effective body that can investigate and resolve allegations of misconduct, the American people will continue to have serious questions regarding the integrity of the Members and their ability or willingness to ferret out those who are guilty of misconduct. Moreover, until such time as a Committee on Standards and Conduct is created and a code of ethics and standards of conduct are established, proceedings that are brought against an individual or a Member may be subject to attack on the basis that they are "witch hunts" or politically inspired.

Justice for those accused as well as the ever mounting public demand for the highest standards of personal conduct makes imperative the immediate establishment of an effective Committee on Standards and Conduct. We urge the Democratic Leadership to schedule this legislation without further delay.

Mr. LATTI. Speaking about the matter of the makeup of this committee, whether it should be partisan, bipartisan, nonpartisan, et cetera, you are probably familiar with the fact that the Senate Ethics Committee is composed of three members from each party. Have you had occasion to look into the operation of this committee as to how it has operated with this makeup?

Mr. GOODELL. I certainly am not qualified as an analyst of the operation of that committee. I do think that their precedent is good in terms of the impression and the appearance of nonpartisanship. To my knowledge this committee has operated on the Senate side in a nonpartisan fashion.

Mr. LATTI. The fact that it is a nonpartisan committee has not hampered its workings in the Senate to your knowledge, has it?

Mr. GOODELL. No. I would certainly not expect the equal provision of this kind of committee to hamper it in any way. I would expect the members would proceed apart from partisanship in this type of matter.

Mr. LATTI. We have had testimony in this committee on the point that perhaps we should only investigate violations of statutes. You would certainly not limit the scope of any committee to that extent?

Mr. GOODELL. No. I tried to make the point that in setting up this committee we should make it clear that they can look back and investigate allegations of clear House rules, regulations, or law, by Members. After all, this was established and the Members of the Congress should know what the laws and rules and regulations of the House are.

In terms of any new standards of ethics, areas that can be marginal and subject to interpretation, I think the jurisdiction of the committee should be prospective only.