

CREATING A SELECT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND CONDUCT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1967

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

The committee met at 10:44 a.m., pursuant to recess, in room H-313, the Capitol, Hon. William M. Colmer (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

Mr. Curtis, the committee will be glad to hear from you on House Resolution 18, or whatever other version you care to talk about.

STATEMENT OF HON. THOMAS B. CURTIS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Mr. CURTIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and let me say that I am here as the ranking House Republican of the Joint Committee on Organization of Congress, which I emphasize is one of these bipartisan committees that someone suggested never produce any results.

It is composed to six Members of the House, three Republicans and three Democrats, and six Members of the Senate, three Democrats and three Republicans.

This committee has, as you know, issued a unanimous report and we have what I would like to call the Monroney-Madden-Curtis bill. It includes every member of the committee. We have all introduced this bill.

In this bill one of the features, of course, is the establishment of an ethics committee, and this was the subject of considerable study of this committee over a period of a couple of years. I am very happy to see Mr. Madden is in judgment on our own handiwork here, and I am happy to be here to support his position on it, or, rather, the committee's position and the position in the bill that this should be a new, independent, and permanent committee.

We talked about, of course, the possibility of using some of our existing structure, whether it be the House Administration Committee or whatever, although I will say the House Administration Committee was the most logical if we were to use any of our structure.

I would like to say this, that this committee would immediately have the function of establishing a code of ethics. This is one of our great needs because, indeed, who can say what the ethics are, and on these questions of ethics, what is ethical and what is not, we need some certainty.