

In any undertaking involving human beings there will always be questions regarding behavior. As long as these questions exist, there is a need to establish an Ethics Committee to deal with the problem. I hope this Committee will give prompt consideration to the ethics proposal, and I urge that it be approved promptly.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand we have another witness.
Mr. Evans?

**STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK E. EVANS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF COLORADO**

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Chairman, I had indicated I would like to appear before the committee, and I can reduce it to less than a minute.

The need for a lengthy statement on my part is mitigated by the excellent testimony you have had here. I would like to subscribe to the idea of a permanent standing committee on ethics, I think it is extremely important, not only for us but for the people of this country as a whole.

I am delighted to see the seriousness with which this committee is ably addressing itself to this issue, and I think the whole country is going to have a better understanding of our problems, which will in turn benefit us by what you are doing now.

I would like to commend you, and I would like to ask for permission to file a statement in the record at this point.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it is so ordered.
(The document referred to follows:)

**STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN FRANK E. EVANS (COLORADO) BEFORE THE RULES
COMMITTEE ON THE MATTER OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS**

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I deeply appreciate the opportunity you have granted all of us to appear before you on the question of Congressional ethics. While I am a relatively new member of the Congress, I believe all Congressmen are in the same predicament when it comes to the understanding or misunderstanding of our ethics by the general public.

I do not believe it is enough that our standards of conduct be high. I believe it is essential that we do all we can to acquaint the general public and the news media with what we believe to be proper standards of conduct so that those who judge us will also have an understanding of our ethics and our reasons for them.

With these thoughts in mind, I would like to mention a few problem areas where I believe it is important for the members of the House to have a clear understanding of proper conduct because of the frequency with which complaints arise surrounding them.

From time to time all Congressmen are confronted with the problem of gifts of one sort or another. These gifts can range from cash to tangible property having a wide variety of values. Such gifts can be given out of gratitude, friendship, or with a thought to influence a Congressman. I believe it would be wise to have a rule that Representatives should not receive gifts having a real or intrinsic value exceeding \$25.

Since Representatives are allowed only four trips home per year at government expense, the great pressure on most Congressmen to return to their Districts as frequently as possible often produces offers of free transportation. Free transportation can come from political parties, interested individuals, special interest groups, unions, or businesses having great interest in pending legislation.

While I do not have a satisfactory answer that could be written into a rule of conduct, I am sure that this Committee or another committee could produce a reasonable standard of conduct in regard to such "free" transportation.

Many times each month most Congressmen have dealings with various departments and agencies of the Government such as the SBA, the ICC and the FCC. Most frequently these contacts involve constituents having a particular interest in the outcome of a question pending before such agency or department.