

I believe a proper standard of conduct in dealing with such departments and agencies could go far in not only guiding each Representative, but also in advising the public-at-large that there are areas in which "political influence" should not be brought to bear upon determinations requiring skill and judgment of the personnel in such agencies and departments.

It is my understanding that some Congressmen accept honorariums for speaking engagements in order to augment their income. Some feel this is a necessity in view of the costs of campaigning and of maintaining two homes, while others may simply see this as a means of increasing their total income. Whatever the reason, I believe it would be most helpful for a standard of conduct to be proposed to govern all Representatives regarding honorariums.

Many problems arise in regard to the former business or occupation of a Congressman and his continuing interest in such business or occupation during the time that he serves in Congress. I believe that we should have a provision in our Code of Ethics which will be easy for the public and the members of Congress to understand that will guide members away from any possible conflict in interest while serving as a Congressman.

While I do not subscribe to the necessity of all members of Congress filing a financial statement with the Congress each year, I do believe it would be reasonable to have a standard of conduct requiring all Congressmen who have income produced by businesses that are federally regulated to file the appropriate declaration.

The hiring of relatives by Congressmen has long been the subject of public criticism. In this regard, I do not believe such hiring practices can be compared to a private business for in the Congress we are dealing with public funds when we pay salaries to family members. Personally, I think the wisest course of action for the House to take would be a provision in our Codes of Ethics against the hiring of members of our own immediate family to work anywhere on our own staffs.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ETHICS COMMITTEE

The foregoing itemization is not intended to be complete. However, they seemed to me to be some of the most troublesome areas in which I think both members of Congress and the public need to have the confidence of knowing there is a standard of conduct agreed upon to which members of Congress are expected to adhere.

I also hope that the House of Representatives will be able to devise a means of disciplining its members so as to increase the public's confidence in us, as members, and as a legislative body, with enforcement procedures which would not fall prey to misuse politically or by the public or the press. While some people would be prone to misuse an Ethics Committee for sensationalism, news stories, political advantage, and so forth, and while such misuse may well be hard to prevent because of the great public interest in all claims of misdoings of Congressmen, it is my hope that a means can be devised for policing ourselves similar to the Grievance Committee procedures of the bar associations throughout this land.

There has been considerable discussion in regard to the question of whether or not a special committee should be formed for the purpose of handling congressional ethics or whether a standing committee or subcommittee should have such responsibility. Having heard some of the testimony before this Committee, it would be my feeling that it would be proper to have a special subcommittee of the House Administration Committee charged with original responsibility and jurisdiction for grievances against Congressmen. I believe such subcommittee should be represented equally by both parties so that in its job of fact-finding and making of recommendations to the full committee there would be an absence of partisanship. The subcommittee's recommendations would be accepted, with or without amendments, or rejected. If accepted in any form by the full committee, the full committee could then recommend action to the floor of the House where the House would work its will. Obviously, whichever party has a majority in Congress will have a majority in the House Administration Committee and in the House of Representatives itself and, therefore, party responsibility may attach to any final decisions made.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gude?