

**STATEMENT OF HON. GILBERT GUDE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

Mr. GUDE. I have submitted a statement, and have seen the due deliberation with which you all are pursuing this problem. I have submitted a statement, and I would like to just mention several aspects of it. Whatever is done, adequate funds must be provided for a permanent professional staff which is certainly necessary for a truly effective committee, where backup research can assure that partisan and personal vendettas do not influence the committee.

Without this, the committee would just be a front, and I believe it is significant that the large number of resolutions introduced specifies this problem be dealt with by a select committee structure. This would make it possible for the committee to concentrate exclusively on matters of ethics and conduct and it would help insure its continuing independence and impartiality.

The very act of creating such a committee would be a symbol of congressional concern, that standards of conduct should apply to all Members of Congress.

There is a pressing need for speedy approval of the resolutions such as I have introduced, No. 286, and the other resolutions, because I believe the credibility of the House of Representatives is at stake. I think it should be a bipartisan committee.

(His statement follows:)

**TESTIMONY ON SELECT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND CONDUCT BEFORE HOUSE
RULES COMMITTEE BY HON. GILBERT GUDE**

During my previous legislative work, I have devoted considerable effort to the area of ethics and conflict of interest legislation. I am testifying in support of House resolution 286 which would provide for a select committee on Standards and Conduct. I would like to urge that the following aspects be kept carefully in mind.

1. Adequate funds must be provided for a permanent professional staff, which is the *sine qua non* of a truly effective ethics committee. Thorough back-up research can insure that partisan and personal vendettas do not influence the committee. Without adequate appropriations to provide for a permanent professional staff, it would become nothing more than an elaborate front to fool the public.

2. I believe that it is significant that the large number of resolutions which have been introduced specifies that this problem be dealt with by a select committee outside of the existing committee structure.

3. The very act of creating such a committee would be a symbol of Congressional concern that standards of conduct should apply to *all* members of Congress. There is a pressing need for speedy approval of this resolution; the credibility of the House of Representatives belief in equality is at stake.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Gude.

(The following statements were submitted for the record:)

TESTIMONY BY REPRESENTATIVE SEYMOUR HALPERN

In this year of Adam Clayton Powell's arrogant disregard of the Congress and the people he represented, the question of the establishment of a Committee on Standards and Conduct—in common parlance, an Ethics Committee—has become a burning question throughout the land.

Mr. Powell asked for the action which was finally taken by the Congress. Now, the people of the United States are asking for immediate action by the Congress to keep its house in order. They must get this action. It is their right.

Through the years I, and other members of the House, have introduced a number of bills and resolutions which would have required the establishment of an Ethics Committee.