



U. S. HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REP. JOHN J. RHODES, (R.-ARIZ.) CHAIRMAN • 140 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING • TELEPHONE 225-6168

10

9 February 1967

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 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.



U. S. HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REP. JOHN J. RHODES, (R.-ARIZ.) CHAIRMAN • 140 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING • TELEPHONE 225-6168

10

8 February 1967

The House Republican Policy Committee urges the immediate consideration and enactment of the Election Reform Act of 1967 which has been sponsored and introduced by the Republican Members.

With each new disclosure at the recent Bobby Baker trial, the need for Election Reform legislation has been reemphasized and underlined. There is today a crisis of confidence with respect to campaign contributions. Election Reform legislation must be enacted well in advance of the 1968 election.

In the last Congress, the Republican Policy Committee adopted a statement urging the enactment of this legislation. The Republican Leadership introduced a bill that would modify and improve the Administration measure and the Republican Members of the House Administration Committee did everything in their power to get a meaningful and workable bill reported. As a result of their efforts, a bill that incorporate the major provisions of the Republican measure was reported by a Subcommittee. At the following meeting of the full committee, all Republican Members were present and ready to vote to report the bill for immediate Floor consideration. Unfortunately, the Democratic members would not join the Republicans so for that session of Congress, this important measure died.

The Election Reform Act of 1967 includes the following Republican proposals:

1. A five-member bipartisan Federal Elections Commission is established to receive reports and statements regarding campaign contributions and expenditures.
2. The Commission has been granted full and complete authority to enforce the provisions of the Act through appropriate investigation and audit. It is also authorized to make reports and statements available for public inspection and to prepare and publish summaries and reports.
3. Every candidate, and every political committee that accepts contributions or make expenditures of \$1,000 or more in any calendar year, is required to report all contributions and expenditures.
4. Donations of more than \$5,000 to any one candidate or committee in any single year are prohibited.
5. The present meaningless ceiling on total contributions to and expenditures by political committees is removed.
6. Campaign contributions by organizations or associations financially supported by a corporation, trade association or labor organization are prohibited.
7. Conventions, primaries and party caucuses have been placed under the reporting and disclosure provisions of the bill.
8. The disclosure of gifts or honorariums is required of candidates for the House and Senate as well as incumbents.

The appropriate studies regarding election reform have been completed. Detailed hearings have been held. The need for the legislation has been established. A good bill was reported in the last Congress. The time for legislative action has arrived. We urge the Democratic Leadership to schedule the Election Reform Act as one of the first pieces of legislation to receive Floor consideration.