

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 531

Relating to a question of the privileges of the House

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

Mr. LINDER submitted the following resolution; which was laid on the table

RESOLUTION

Relating to a question of the privileges of the House

Whereas a complaint filed against Representative Gephardt alleges House Rules have been violated by Representative Gephardt's concealment of profits gained through a complex series of real estate tax exchanges and;

Whereas the complaint also alleges possible violations of banking disclosure and campaign finance laws or regulations and;

Whereas the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has in other complex matters involving complaints hired outside counsel with expertise in tax laws and regulations and;

Whereas the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is responsible for determining whether Representative Gephardt's financial transactions violated standards of con-

duct or specific rules of the House of Representatives and;

Whereas the complaint against Representative Gephardt has been pending before the committee for more than seven months and the integrity of the ethics process and the manner in which Members are disciplined is called into question; and

Whereas on Friday, September 20, 1996, the ranking Democrat of the Ethics Committee, Representative James McDermott in a public statement suggested that cases pending before the committee in excess of 60 days be referred to an outside counsel: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Committee on Standards of Offi-
 2 cial Conduct is authorized and directed to hire a special
 3 counsel to assist in the investigation of the charges filed
 4 against the Democratic leader Representative Gephardt,
 5 and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That all relevant materials presented to, or
 7 developed by, the committee to date on the complaint be
 8 submitted to a special counsel, for review and rec-
 9 ommendation to determine whether the committee should
 10 proceed to a preliminary inquiry.

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