

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 288

Relating to a question of the privileges of the House.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 30, 1995

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was laid on the table

RESOLUTION

Relating to a question of the privileges of the House.

Whereas the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is currently considering several ethics complaints against Speaker Newt Gingrich;

Whereas the Committee has traditionally handled such cases by appointing an independent, nonpartisan, outside counsel—a procedure which has been adopted in every major ethics case since the Committee was established;

Whereas, although complaints against Speaker Gingrich have been under consideration for more than 14 months, the Committee has failed to appoint an outside counsel;

Whereas the Committee has also deviated from other long-standing precedents and rules of procedure; including its failure to adopt a resolution of preliminary inquiry before

calling third-party witnesses and receiving sworn testimony;

Whereas these procedural irregularities—and the unusual delay in the appointment of an independent, outside counsel—have led to widespread concern that the Committee is making special exceptions for the Speaker of the House; and

Whereas the integrity of the House depends on the confidence of the American people in the fairness and impartiality of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the chairman and ranking member of
2 the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct should
3 report to the House, no later than December 12, 1995,
4 concerning—

5 (1) the status of the Committee’s investigation
6 of the complaints against Speaker Gingrich;

7 (2) the Committee’s disposition with regard to
8 the appointment of a nonpartisan outside counsel
9 and the scope of the counsel’s investigation; and

10 (3) a timetable for Committee action on the
11 complaints.

○