

3/1/96

Group Files Ethics Complaint Against House Democratic Whip

Associated Press

A conservative legal foundation filed an ethics complaint yesterday accusing House Democratic Whip David E. Bonior (Mich.) of misusing congressional staff to help write a book.

The Landmark Legal Foundation asked the House ethics committee to determine whether the staff members worked on Bonior's 1984 book on government time.

The complaint cited a House rule requiring that official funds be used only for their intended governmental purposes. It also noted that federal law prohibits false claims for government payment, a reference to staff salaries.

House employees may work on non-congressional jobs—providing there is no conflict of interest with their official duties and they participate on their own time.

Bonior, whose book was about treatment of Vietnam veterans, has been the most persistent critic of House Speaker Newt Gingrich's ethical conduct. He has filed several complaints against the Republican leader from Georgia and called the complaint an attempt at retaliation.

"Today, Landmark Legal Foundation continued their futile attempt to deflect attention from Newt Gingrich's serious ethics problems," Bonior said. "There is no basis for an ethics complaint on the book I wrote."



REP. DAVID E. BONIOR

... target of conservative foundation