

RPTR ZAMORA

EDTR CRYSTAL

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

House of Representatives,

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition

Between the United States and the

Chinese Communist Party,

Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 9:02 a.m., in Room 390, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Mike Gallagher [chairman of the committee] presiding.

Chairman Gallagher. The select committee will come to order.

Welcome to the organizational meeting for the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party.

And thank you all for being here promptly at 9:00 a.m. Although, Representative Wittman man gets the Vince Lombardi award. He was here earlier than everyone else. But I promise we will not make a habit out of these morning meetings.

We have a very short and sweet agenda today with just one item: adopting the committee rules.

And before we turn to the rules, I would like to take a moment to welcome all of our members.

As you all know, I think that the threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party is the most pressing issue facing the world today, and I am grateful that both Speaker McCarthy and Minority Leader Jeffries appointed all of you to this committee. You all have impressive backgrounds. Your expertise and the standing committees that you represent are a testament to the importance and the seriousness with which both parties take this issue, and I am very grateful for that.

It is also an honor to lead this committee with Ranking Member Raj Krishnamoorthi, with whom I have had the privilege of working closely on a number of issues over the last few years.

Raj, I look forward to continuing to work closely with you and your team as we lead this committee together.

And now I would like to recognize my good friend, Ranking Member Raj Krishnamoorthi, for his opening remarks.

Mr. Krishnamoorthi. Thank you, Chairman Gallagher. I echo your sentiments.

I am pleased to say that the majority worked closely with us on the committee rules package, and the final product represents a bipartisan agreement that has my full support.

Moving forward, it is my hope that we will be able to choose all hearing topics and witnesses in a bipartisan manner so that our hearings include the necessary expert testimony, tone, and diversity of viewpoints and backgrounds necessary for full consideration of the matters at hand.

The select committee is also breaking new ground on the facilitation of videos and other supporting materials to ensure the hearings are more effective and interesting. Extended questioning, colloquies, and other formats are enshrined as options in the rules.

And last, I support the stronger transparency requirements and disclosure of possible conflicts of interest in the committee rules for any potential witnesses.

I support adoption of this bipartisan committee rules package and hope it has the support of all of my colleagues.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Gallagher. Thank you, Ranking Member, for your statement, and to you and your staff for working so collaboratively with us.

If any other members have prepared opening statements, without objection, they will be entered into the record.

There being none, we will now turn to the committee business for this morning, adopting the committee rules.

The chair calls up the resolution to adopt the select committee rules for the 118th Congress. The clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk. Committee resolution No. 1: Adoption of the select committee

rules.

Chairman Gallagher. Without objection, the first reading of the resolution is dispensed with, and the resolution will be open for amendment at any point.

[The information follows:]

***** COMMITTEE INSERT *****

Chairman Gallagher. The first item this committee will consider is the committee rules. And I am delighted to report, as the ranking member pointed out, that this is a bipartisan product. I think we have a great foundation here for the work that we are going to be doing together, and I appreciate your support for the rules.

And just in case you haven't spent hours reading the rules, I want to highlight a couple of ways that our rules are purpose built to help this committee succeed in our work.

The first is fostering bipartisanship. I am very optimistic at present about our ability to work together to find common ground in our hearings and fact finding and to build policy recommendations from a shared understanding of the Chinese Communist Party threat.

The ranking member and I worked closely together to reflect that commitment in the rules. We each commit to consulting each other on all hearing witnesses. And our rules promise the minority more witnesses as a proportion of our hearing panels than any other committee.

Second, holding interesting hearings. One of the most important parts of this committee's work will be educating our colleagues and the American people about the Chinese Communist Party. Why should someone in northeast Wisconsin or even the Eighth District of Illinois care about the Chinese Communist Party? It is a question we need to answer, and that means we are going to have to think outside the box at our hearings.

We want our hearings and other events to be interesting, compelling, and accessible to the average American. If we are only speaking to the swamp, we will fail.

So to do that, as the ranking member referenced, we built a lot of flexibility into

how we will run our hearings, using visual aids, photos, graphics. We want these to be engaging and watchable. So our rules allow for extended time for questions, for member colloquies, discussion, and debate. We want to have real conversations and learn together.

We will be putting some of these rules to use tonight, and we are going to integrate a couple of videos to help set the stage for the hearing, but we want to iterate as we go along.

Third, and finally, more transparency. We know that the Chinese Communist Party is willing to use whatever leverage it can muster to exert its influence beyond China's borders, including here in the U.S. And the CCP doesn't just use Chinese Government employees. It exerts its influence through seemingly private intermediaries who act on the CCP's behalf.

That is why we are asking all witnesses who appear before the committee to disclose any funding or in-kind contributions that they receive directly or indirectly from the Chinese Government or the CCP. If the CCP can use financial leverage to exert direction, influence, or control over a witness or their employer, the witness has to tell us about it.

These rules will help ensure that the information the committee receives is objective, unbiased, and not influenced by any hidden economic relationship.

So thank you again, Raj, for working with me on these important issues and for your support for the rules.

I would now like to recognize the ranking member again if he has any additional remarks on the rules.

Mr. Krishnamoorthi. No. I yield back.

Chairman Gallagher. Do any other members wish to speak on the rules?

Okay. There being no further amendments or requests for debate, the question now occurs on approving the resolution to adopt the select committee rules for the 118th Congress.

All those in favor say aye.

All those opposed say nay.

The ayes have it. The resolution is approved.

Without objection, the staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the resolution considered by the committee today. So ordered.

We look forward to seeing all of you tonight at our 7 p.m. hearing. Having adopted the rules, this evening's hearing -- assuming that the GC doesn't tell me I screwed something up -- this evening's hearing is deemed noticed pursuant to rule 3(a)(1), without objection. Feel free to reach out to my staff with any questions today. And I will see you all tonight in this room.

The select committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 9:09 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]