

REPUBLICANS PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM PROSECUTION?

Bethania Palma Feb. 26th, 2017 9:00 p.m.

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A new president is elected from the Republican party and new order is in congress.

Republican U.S. representatives implemented a new rule that shields them from prosecution on 3 January 2017. With only 2 Republicans joining Democrats in voting “nay”. A new rule enacted by Congress makes congressional records the personal property of Congress members, a factor that could increase the difficulty of investigations and prosecutions.

Records made, generated, or given by the congressional office of a Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner that is Republican in the performance of official duties are exclusively the personal property of the Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner, and has control over such records. This makes investigations from the opposite party difficult since the prosecutors have limited access. Michael Stern, former senior Republican counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives, explained that rendering documents generated by public office is like “personal property”.

“Aaron Schock, a former Illinois representative who was indicted on two dozen counts related to accusations he improperly lived an extravagant lifestyle on the taxpayers’ dime.”¹

“The tweak allows politicians to conceal any information members produce – even suspicious expenditures and budgets – if the Office of Congressional Ethics or the Department of Justice investigates them for criminal activity”²

This is concerning the public and is questioning transparency. The congress is at stake and there is conflict between the two parties.

Responsive Politics Sheila Krumholz executive director said “This only benefits the incumbent politicians like the Republican party who is now of majority. Those who passed this rule and those who would flout it, not the system and certainly not the public.”³

Several House members of that Conservative party have been investigated for criminal activity related to misuse of funds, and have been forced to resign or charged with crimes. Now it will be harder to bring those justice.

<http://www.snopes.com/house-shield-from-prosecution/>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/secret-new-rule-allows-house-members-to-hide-records-from-ethics-probes_us_58746aefe4b099cdb0ff34eb

<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2017/01/09/House-GOP-Quietly-Shields-Lawmakers-Records-Ethics-Probes>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/chaka-fattah-indicted_us_55b8eb1ae4b0224d88349e9a

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/03/17/rep-aaron-schock-plans-to-resign-in-wake-of-spending-probe/?utm_term=.5979ac9ed072

