

**Records of the Joint Committee  
on the Organization of Congress  
RG.233.89.JCOC  
89th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,  
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Title</b>	Records of the Joint Committee on the Organization of the Congress
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1965-1967
<b>Extent</b>	Amount unknown
<b>Language</b>	English

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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The Joint Committee on the Organization of the Congress was established by S. Con. Res. 2, 89th Cong., on March 11, 1965, to study the organization and operation of Congress and recommend improvements "with a view toward strengthening the Congress, simplifying its operations, improving its relationship with other branches of the United States Government, and enabling it better to meet its responsibilities under the Constitution." For 5 months, the committee held hearings at which 199 witnesses testified, including 106 Members of Congress. The committee issued its final report (S. Rept. 1414, 89th Cong., 2d sess., Serials 12712-2) on July 28, 1966.

The committee's work led eventually to the passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-510). Among other provisions, the legislation opened committee proceedings to more public scrutiny by mandating that committee meetings and hearings be open to the public unless the committee specifically voted to close them and requiring that all committee roll call votes should be made public.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The records of the Joint Committee on the Organization of the Congress include correspondence, memorandums, analytical reports, committee agenda, texts of speeches, press releases, and copies of committee publications and other printed materials. Various papers pertain to the committee hearings, including statements and summaries of hearings. There are memorandums, proposals, analytical reports, and a bibliography regarding "The Press and the American Political Scene" prepared by the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress. A dissertation on evasiveness of governmental administrators when answering questions is also among the files. Subjects covered include possible applications of computer technology to assist Congress in its work, as well as proposals regarding fiscal controls, congressional authority, ethics, and staffs.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.