

## Jan 10 2006 - Slaughter Calls for Immediate Action by Ethics Committee on Congressional Scandals

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Also Says Any Ethics Reform Package Must "Go Beyond Lobbying"

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today issued a new call for the House Ethics Committee to immediately open investigations into the lobbying and influence-peddling scandals plaguing a wide range of Members of the House of Representatives.

"The House Ethics Committee must get to work now and aggressively investigate the ethics and corruption cases engulfing the House, including all of those involving Members associated with Jack Abramoff," Rep. Slaughter said. "Restarting the Committee is a necessary first step to returning a high ethical standard to Congress and restoring the House's legitimacy in the eyes of the American people."

"If Republicans had agreed to re-start the Ethics Committee a year ago, when Democrats first called for its restoration, then the Congress and the nation would be in a much better place now," she added.

Rep. Slaughter also stated that any ethics reform package considered by Congress must not be content to only regulate lobbying activities.

"It has long been obvious that the influence lobbyists hold over numerous Republicans must be put to a stop," she said. "But what we need is a comprehensive ethics package, one that goes beyond lobbying, and will make ethical conduct, and an aggressive Ethics Committee, as important to the Members of this Congress as they should have always been."

"It isn't too late," she concluded. "Our elected officials can still save themselves from the permanent stain of corruption. But the time for action is now."