

# Chapter CCXXXIV.<sup>1</sup>

## ELECTION OF COMMITTEES.

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**2171. The House elects the standing committees at the commencement of each Congress.**

**History of section 1 of Rule X.**

Section 1 of Rule X provides for the election of the standing committees, enumerates them and fixes the number of Members composing each. The first clause of the rule, introductory to the enumeration, provides as follows:

There shall be elected by the House, at the commencement of each Congress, the following standing committees, viz:

This rule was adopted in its present form April 5, 1911,<sup>2</sup> as a part of the general revision of that year, and transferred to the House the duty of naming the standing committees which had been uniformly exercised by the Speaker prior to the Sixty-second Congress.

**2172. Motions for the election of Members to committees are debatable and are subject to amendment.**

**In making up nominations for committees the majority delegate to the minority, with certain reservations, the selection of minority representation on the committees.**

**Instances in which the majority declined to recognize minority recommendations for committee assignments.**

**A motion to fill vacancies on standing committees was offered as privileged.**

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<sup>1</sup>Supplementary to Chapter CIV.

<sup>2</sup>First session Sixty-second Congress, Record, pp. 11, 80.

On January 11, 1912,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Oscar W. Underwood, the majority leader, in offering a privileged motion, said:

Mr. Speaker, at the request of the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Mann, I move the election of the following gentlemen to fill the vacancies named in the list which I send to the desk and ask to have read, which vacancies belong to the minority side of the House.

The Clerk read as follows:

For election to minority places the following:

Committee on Rules, Philip P. Campbell, of Kansas.

Committee on Banking and Currency, William H. Heald, of Delaware.

Committee on Claims, W. D. B. Ainey, of Pennsylvania.

Committee on the Census, W. D. B. Ainey, of Pennsylvania.

Committee on Naval Affairs, William J. Browning, of New Jersey.

Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures, George Curry, of New Mexico.

Mr. George W. Norris, of Nebraska, inquired if the motion was subject to amendment, and the Speaker<sup>2</sup> having answered in the affirmative, moved to substitute the name of Mr. Victor Murdock, of Kansas, for that of Mr. Philip P. Campbell, of Kansas, for the Committee on Rules.

The Speaker announced:

The nomination which the gentleman from Nebraska makes is in the nature of a substitute for the nomination made by the gentleman from Alabama at the request of the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Mann, the minority leader. Therefore the proposition of the gentleman from Nebraska will be voted on first as in the nature of a substitute.

In debating the motion, Mr. Underwood said:

Mr. Speaker, I want to explain our attitude in reference to this matter. For a number of years the Democratic Party has demanded in this House when the Republicans were in control of it that we should have the right to select and name our own committee places. When this House was organized we conceded to the Republican side of the House the right to name the committee places, subject to a general revision, so that we might balance the committee. At the direction of the Democratic caucus I notified the gentleman from Illinois that his side of the House could fill the committee places either by their caucus or in the manner they saw fit. The Republican caucus, instead of selecting their committee places by a committee on committees and ratifying them in the caucus, as we do, determined that they desired to have their selections made by their own leader as representing the Republican Party.

In the course of debate Mr. Joseph G. Cannon, of Illinois, said:

In have no apologies touching the action of a former Speaker of this House. Never before in the history of the Government did the minority have the same power that the minority had for three Congresses, under the leadership of the now Senator Williams and former minority leader of this House, in placing the minority membership on committees. It was well understood between Representative Williams and the then Speaker of the House that he should have his way about minority appointments, and as I recollect now there were not to exceed four cases where the minority leader did not have his way, and in those cases the limitation placed upon him was where the organization of the minority interfered with the organization of the majority for geographic reasons or as a matter of policy, and geographic reasons substantially made the exceptions.

I believe in a government through majorities, through party organization, with full power and full responsibility; and if I had again the power to organize this House as its Speaker I would

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<sup>1</sup> Second session Sixty-second Congress, Record, p. 855.

<sup>2</sup> Champ Clark, of Missouri, Speaker.

conscientiously and fearlessly organize it according to my best judgment, after the fullest consultation with members of the majority, giving the minority substantially a free hand. In the Sixty-first Congress, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. Clark, the leader then of the minority, notified me that he would not organize that minority unless his recommendations were accepted without the dotting of an "i" or the crossing of a "t." I declined to agree to that proposition because it conflicted with the policy that had been adopted by myself and by the House for the three former Congresses.

During the discussion Mr. Mann said:

Mr. Speaker, the Republican caucus which was called at the beginning of this Congress selected me as their candidate for Speaker, which, under the unwritten practice, made me the so-called minority leader. At the same time, following a communication from the Democratic caucus, the question was presented, and it was agreed by caucus action that the Republican candidate for Speaker—the minority leader—should make the recommendations for minority appointments upon committees. I understood in communications with the gentleman from Alabama, Mr. Underwood, that the Democratic caucus had taken the position that the Republican side of the House might select the minority members of the committees unofficially, subject to the approval of the Democratic members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Of course, we all understand the rule that there shall be an election by the House, and the motion by way of amendment now offered by the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Norris, is entirely in order and is conformable to the rules of the House.

Let me say to the gentlemen on the other side of the aisle, I recognized the right, and believed it ought to be exercised, of the majority side of the House being responsible, because they were in control, and of the right on either side, either through the Ways and Means Committee or on the floor, to change designations made either by the minority leader, or the minority through caucus or otherwise.

At the conclusion of debate the substitute offered by Mr. Norris was rejected, yeas 106, nays 167. The original motion was then agreed to without division.

**2173.** On December 13, 1917,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Claude Kitchin, of North Carolina, the majority leader, offered a resolution for the election of majority members of a standing committee as follows:

*Resolved*, That the following-named gentlemen be, and they are hereby, elected members of the Committee on Woman Suffrage:

1. John E. Raker (chairman), of California.
2. Edward W. Saunders, of Virginia.
3. Frank Clark, of Florida.
4. Benjamin C. Hilliard, of Colorado.
5. James H. Mays, of Utah.
6. Christopher D. Sullivan, of New York.
7. Thomas L. Blanton, of Texas.

Mr. Frederick H. Gillett, of Massachusetts, the minority leader, then offered this amendment for the election of the minority members of the committee:

*Resolved*, That the following-named Members be, and hereby are, elected members of the Committee on Woman Suffrage:

8. Miss Rankin,
9. Mr. Mondell,
10. Mr. Carter, of Massachusetts,
11. Mr. Meeker,
12. Mr. Little, and
13. Mr. Elliott.

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<sup>1</sup> Second session Sixty-fifth Congress, Record, p. 258.

Mr. Meyer London, of New York, as a parliamentary inquiry, asked if amendments to the amendment were in order.

The Speaker replied in the affirmative, and Mr. London proposed, as an amendment to the amendment, to strike out the name of Christopher D. Sullivan and substitute the name of Meyer London.

The question being taken was decided in the negative. The amendment was then agreed to and the resolution as amended was adopted.

**2174. It is in order to move the previous question on motions or resolutions providing for the election of Members to standing committees.**

**An instance in which the Speaker took a question under advisement and rendered a decision on a subsequent day.**

On June 3, 1913,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, offered a motion electing the standing committees, when Mr. James R. Mann, of Illinois, submitted a parliamentary inquiry as to whether it would be in order to move the previous question on the motion.

The Speaker<sup>2</sup> said:

The Chair will take time to investigate it. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Alabama that the list of Members who have been nominated for the committees be elected.

The question was taken and the motion was agreed to.

On June 6, during an interval in the business of the House, the Speaker said:

On Tuesday last the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Mann, made a parliamentary inquiry of some importance, to which the circumstances at that particular moment did not necessitate an answer from the Chair, but upon which several prominent Members think the Chair should render an opinion for future guidance, and, it being a new question, the Chair concurs in their suggestion.

The parliamentary inquiry was this:

“When the floor leader submits to the House a list of nominations for membership on committees, has he or any other Member the right to move the previous question on the said list of nominations?”

After due consideration of the question, the Chair is of the opinion that under such circumstances the motion for the previous question is in order.

It so happened that on this particular occasion the floor leader of the majority, Mr. Underwood, simply moved that the list which he submitted be adopted, but it would have been in order for him to have offered a resolution for the same purpose. Had he offered a resolution, it is clear that he could have moved the previous question; and by analogy, it is equally clear that he could have moved the previous question on his motion. Otherwise we might be placed in the preposterous situation of spending days or even weeks or months in the election of committees. To say that the previous question can not be moved and ordered in such a posture of affairs would be to give the widest possible latitude for filibustering—a practice which the House frowns upon.

Of course, should the majority leader, as the mouthpiece of both the Committee on Ways and Means and of the majority party caucus, abuse the powers of said committee and of said caucus, the House has its remedy by voting down the motion for the previous question, thereby throwing the list of nominations, made by either motion or resolution, open to amendment.

It goes without saying that until the motion for the previous question is agreed to by the House the motion or resolution to adopt the nominations for committee assignments is open to debate or amendment.

<sup>1</sup> First session Sixty-third Congress, Record, p. 1871.

<sup>2</sup> Champ Clark, of Missouri, Speaker.

It is within the knowledge of all that the uniform practice of the House under the rules is to elect the Clerk of the House and other officers by resolution, and it is also a matter of common knowledge that the general parliamentary practice of conventions throughout the land is to “move to close nominations,” which is only another method of “moving the previous question,” the two motions having precisely the same effect.

**2175. A rule provides that motions or resolutions to elect members of the standing committees shall not be divisible.**

**Form and history of the proviso of section 6 of Rule XVI.**

The proviso of section 6 of Rule XVI prohibits the division of motions for the election of standing committees as follows:

*Provided,* That any motion or resolution to elect the members or any portion of the members of the standing committees of the House and the joint standing committees shall not be divisible.

This provision was adopted April 2, 1917,<sup>1</sup> on the occasion of the adoption of the rules at the organization of the House.

**2176. Election of the majority members of a committee constitutes the committee which may then organize and proceed to business before minority members have been elected.**

On May 19, 1919,<sup>2</sup> the House having organized, elected the majority members of the standing committees but in the absence of nominations failed to elect the minority members of the committees.

On the following day,<sup>3</sup> immediately after the reading of the Journal, Mr. James R. Mann, of Illinois, by direction of the Committee on Woman Suffrage, moved that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from the consideration of the joint resolutions (H. J. Res. 1) and (H. J. Res. 18) extending the right of suffrage to women, and that those resolutions be referred to the Committee on Woman Suffrage.

Mr. Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, made the point of order that until minority members were elected the committees could not organize and were not technically in existence and there was, therefore, no Committee on Woman Suffrage to which the joint resolutions could be referred as proposed in the motion of the gentleman from Illinois.

After debate,<sup>4</sup> the Speaker ruled:

The Chair is of the opinion that when a majority of a committee has been elected by the House that committee is duly constituted, and whether it is usual or ordinary or expedient is a matter for the House to judge. The gentleman from Illinois moves, by direction of the committee, the change of reference from the Committee on the Judiciary to the Committee on Woman Suffrage.

**2177. An instance in which a committee report was delayed until minority members of the committee could be elected.**

On April 15, 1921,<sup>5</sup> in discussing the legislative program for the following day, Mr. Frank W. Mondell, of Wyoming, the majority leader, announced that it would

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<sup>1</sup>First session Sixty-fifth Congress, Record, p. 111.

<sup>2</sup>First session Sixty-sixth Congress, Record, p. 9.

<sup>3</sup>Record, p. 66.

<sup>4</sup>Frederick H. Gillett, of Massachusetts, Speaker.

<sup>5</sup>First session Sixty-seventh Congress, Record, p. 354.

be necessary for the House to meet to receive a report from the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization.

Mr. Finis J. Garrett, of Tennessee, objected:

Mr. Speaker, how can the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization report, when the making up of that committee has not been completed?

Mr. Speaker, the minority have moved with all diligence, as rapidly as they could, to complete the making up of this committee. It is not right, it is not proper, for that committee to report until the minority members have been appointed. I repeat, the minority committee which makes up the committees has moved as rapidly as it is possible, and faster, as far as I know, than it has ever done. We have met here repeatedly at special sessions and waited weeks and sometimes months for making up the committees. I protest now against any report being received.

Subsequently, Mr. Mondell said:

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the minority have not appointed their members of the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, and because they desire to have their members on that committee appointed before the bill is reported, that bill will not be reported to-morrow, as suggested. That being the case, there is no reason why the House should meet to-morrow.

**2178. A rule provides that vacancies in standing committees shall be filled by election by the House.**

**Form and history of section 4 of Rule X.**

Section 4 of Rule X provides for the filling of vacancies on committees as follows:

All vacancies in standing committees of the House shall be filled by election by the House.

This rule was adopted in 1911<sup>1</sup> in connection with the rule providing for election of committees by the House.

**2179. Motions and resolutions for the election of standing committees have been presented as privileged.**

**The House in electing committees designates the rank of Members in the order in which their names appear on the list.**

**An instance in which a party caucus ranked those nominated for membership on a committee in the order of the respective vote received.**

On March 25, 1910,<sup>2</sup> Mr. Frank D. Currier, of New Hampshire, presented as a privileged matter, the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the following-named Representatives be elected as members of the Committee on Rules:

Hon. John Dalzell, of Pennsylvania; Hon. Walter I. Smith, of Iowa; Hon. Henry S. Boutelle, of Illinois; Hon. George P. Lawrence, of Massachusetts; Hon. J. Sloat Fassett, of New York; Hon. Sylvester C. Smith, of California; Hon. Champ Clark, of Missouri; Hon. Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama; Hon. Lincoln Dixon, of Indiana; and Hon. John J. Fitzgerald, of New York.

In explanation of the order in which the prospective members of the committees are ranked, Mr. Currier said:

Mr. Speaker, the resolution I have offered provides for the election of the Committee on Rules ordered by the House. The six gentlemen first named in the resolution were selected in the Republican caucus, and the rank given them on the committee is in accordance with a resolution

<sup>1</sup>First session Sixty-second Congress, Record, pp. 12, 80.

<sup>2</sup>Second session, Sixty-first Congress, Record, p. 3759.

adopted in that caucus. When it happened that two gentlemen had the same length of service, they agreed as to the rank they were to have.

The four other gentlemen named in the resolution were selected in the Democratic caucus, and they are ranked on the committee in accordance with a report of the proceedings of that caucus, a copy of which was handed me by its secretary, the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. Robinson.

**Mr. Henry D. Clayton, of Alabama, supplemented:**

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic caucus was held last night and selected four candidates for members of the Committee on Rules. In pursuance of the action of that caucus I, together with the secretary of the caucus, signed a certificate and handed it to the gentleman from New Hampshire, Mr. Currier, this morning certifying that the Hon. Champ Clark, the Hon. Oscar W. Underwood, the Hon. Lincoln Dixon, and the Hon. John J. Fitzgerald were selected as the Democratic members of this committee. They have been elected as Democratic members of this committee. They have been ranked, Mr. Speaker, according to the votes which they received in the Democratic caucus, namely, Mr. Clark having received the highest vote, Mr. Underwood, the next highest vote, Mr. Dixon the next highest vote, and then came Mr. Fitzgerald. Without any instructions by the Democratic caucus on that subject at all, it occurred to me as chairman of that caucus that that was the proper way to rank the Democratic members of the committee, and hence I so certified them in the order to the distinguished gentleman from New Hampshire.

**2180.** On April 11, 1911,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, offered, as privileged, a motion for the election of members of the standing committees.

The motion was agreed to.

**2181.** On May 19, 1919,<sup>2</sup> Mr. Frank W. Mondell, of Wyoming, presented as a privileged matter a resolution naming the majority members of the standing committees.

The resolution was adopted and on May 26,<sup>3</sup> Mr. Claude Kitchin, of North Carolina, offered a resolution, naming the minority members of the committees, which was considered as privileged and agreed to.

**2182. Resolutions providing for election of standing committees are privileged.** On December 12, 1929,<sup>4</sup> Mr. John Q. Tilson, of Connecticut, sent to the Clerk's desk the resolution (H. Res. 92) for the election of the standing committees of the House, and requested immediate consideration.

Mr. John N. Garner, of Texas, as a parliamentary inquiry, questioned the privilege of the resolution.

The Speaker<sup>5</sup> ruled:

Rule X provides that "there shall be elected by the House at the commencement of each Congress the following standing committees." The Chair thinks it is a matter of the organization of the House and is privileged. The Clerk will report the resolution.

**2183. General increases have been made in the standing committees from time to time.**

**A tabulation indicating changes in the size of the committees and the establishment and discontinuance of committees since the Fifty-ninth Congress.**

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<sup>1</sup> First session Sixty-second Congress, Record, p. 161.

<sup>2</sup> First session Sixty-sixth Congress, Record, p. 9.

<sup>3</sup> Record, p. 247.

<sup>4</sup> Second session Seventy-first Congress, Record, p. 542.

<sup>5</sup> Nicholas Longworth, of Ohio, Speaker.

The successive changes in the size of the committees and in the list of the standing committees of the House from the Fifty-ninth to the Seventy-third Congresses are tabulated as follows:

Committee on—	60	61	62	63 <sup>1</sup>	64 <sup>2</sup>	65 <sup>3</sup>	66 <sup>4</sup>	67	68 <sup>5</sup>	69 <sup>6</sup>	70 <sup>7</sup>	71	72	73 <sup>8</sup>
Accounts .....	9	9	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Agriculture .....	18	18	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	23	25
Alcohol Liquor Traffic .....	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	.....	.....	.....	.....
Appropriations .....	17	17	21	21	21	21	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Banking and Currency .....	19	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	.....
Census .....	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	17	17	21	21	21	21
Reform in the Civil Service .....	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Civil Service .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	13	21	21	21	21
Claims .....	.....	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	21	21	21
Coinage, Weights and Measures ...	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	21
Disposition of Executive Papers ...	.....	.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
District of Columbia .....	19	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Education .....	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	21	21	21	21
Election of President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress .....	13	13	31	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Elections No. 1 .....	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Elections No. 2 .....	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Elections No. 3 .....	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Enrolled Bills .....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Expenditures in the State Department .....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the Treasury Department .....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the War Department .....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the Navy Department .....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the Post Office Department .....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the Interior Department .....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the Department of Justice .....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the Department of Agriculture .....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the Departments of Commerce and Labor .....	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the Department of Commerce .....	.....	.....	.....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the Department of Labor .....	.....	.....	.....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures on Public Buildings .....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Expenditures in the Executive Departments .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	21	21	21
Flood Control .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	15	15	15	15	15	21	21	21	21
Foreign Affairs .....	19	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	25
Immigration and Naturalization ...	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	17	17	21	21	21	21
Indian Affairs .....	19	19	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Industrial Arts and Expositions ...	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	.....	.....	.....	.....
Insular Affairs .....	19	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Interstate and Foreign Commerce .....	18	18	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	23	21	23	23	25
Invalid Pensions .....	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	21	21	21	21
Irrigation of Arid Lands .....	13	13	13	15	15	15	15	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Irrigation and Reclamation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	17	17	17	21
Judiciary .....	18	18	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	23	23	23	23	25
Labor .....	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14	15	15	21	21	21	21

See footnotes at end of table.

Committee on—	60	61	62	63 <sup>1</sup>	64 <sup>2</sup>	65 <sup>3</sup>	66 <sup>4</sup>	67	68 <sup>5</sup>	69 <sup>6</sup>	70 <sup>7</sup>	71	72	73 <sup>8</sup>
Levees and improvements of the Mississippi River ...	15	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
The Library .....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Manufactures .....	13	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Merchant Marine and Fisheries .....	19	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Memorials .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	3	3	3
Mileage .....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	.....	.....	.....	.....
Military Affairs .....	19	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	25
Militia .....	15	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mines and Mining .....	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	15	16	16	16	16	21
Naval Affairs .....	19	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	25
Pacific Railroads .....	15	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Patents .....	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	21	21	21	21
Pensions .....	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	21	21	21	21
Post Office and Post Road ..	18	18	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	25
Printing .....	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Private Land Claims .....	13	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Public Buildings and Grounds .....	17	17	17	19	19	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21
Public Lands .....	19	19	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Railways and Canals .....	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	.....	.....	.....	.....
Revision of the Laws .....	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Rivers and Harbors .....	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	23	23	25
Roads .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Rules .....	5	5	11	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Territories .....	16	16	16	16	16	17	17	17	17	17	21	21	21	21
Ventilation and Acoustics ...	7	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
War Claims .....	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	21	21	21	21
Ways and Means .....	19	19	21	21	22	22	25	25	26	25	25	25	25	25
World War Veterans' Legislation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	21	21	21	21	21
Woman Suffrage .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	13	13	13	13	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total .....	801	801	768	781	838	834	852	852	882	886	839	845	845	885

<sup>1</sup> First session, Sixty-third Congress, Record, p. 1783.  
<sup>2</sup> First session, Sixty-fourth Congress, Record, p. 13  
<sup>3</sup> H. Res. 3, first session, Sixty-fifth Congress, Record, p. 128, H. Res. 12, Record, p. 7369.  
<sup>4</sup> First session, Sixty-sixth Congress, Record, p. 9.  
<sup>5</sup> H. Res. 143, first session, Sixty-eighth Congress, Record, p. 943.  
<sup>6</sup> H. Res. 6, first session, Sixty-ninth Congress, Record, p. 383.  
<sup>7</sup> H. Res. 7, first session, Seventieth Congress, Record, p. 11.  
<sup>8</sup> H. Res. 43, first session, Seventy-third Congress, Record, p. 37.

**2184. In the allotment of committee assignments the party in control is termed the majority and all the other parties constitute the minority. Committee assignments of all parties other than the controlling party are charged to the minority.**

**Discussion of the ratio of majority and minority representation on committees.**

On April 11, 1911,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, offered, a motion naming the members of the standing committees, when Mr. N. E. Kendall, of Iowa, Victor L. Berger, of Wisconsin, elected as a member of the Socialist Party, had been charged to the minority, and if his assignment was to be deducted from the minority quota.

<sup>1</sup> First session Sixty-second Congress, Record, p. 162.

Mr. Underwood replied:

He is charged to the minority. It has always been that way.

Mr. Berger is not a member of the majority party. He belongs to a party that is not in control in this House, and all parties that are not in control in this House belong to the minority.

Mr. Speaker, this side of the House has been criticized because of the fact that it had increased some of the large committees of the House to 21 members, and of those members taken 14 and given 7 to the minority. I do not think it is a serious charge, but as I desire the Record to state our position in the matter, I have prepared a statement, which I send to the Clerk's desk and ask the Clerk to read in my time, so that it may appear in the Record.

The Clerk read as follows:

“Under a resolution of the Democratic caucus 15 committees of the House were increased to 21 members, to be divided 14 to the majority and 7 to the minority.

“The representation of the two parties on these committees in the last Congress and in the present one is as follows:

Committees.	Sixty-first Congress.		Sixty-second Congress.	
	Democrats.	Republicans.	Democrats.	Republicans.
1. Agriculture .....	7	12	14	7
2. Appropriations .....	6	11	14	7
3. Banking and Currency .....	7	12	14	7
4. District of Columbia .....	7	12	14	7
5. Foreign Affairs .....	7	12	14	7
6. Interstate and Foreign Commerce .....	6	12	14	7
7. Judiciary .....	6	12	14	7
8. Merchant Marine and Fisheries .....	7	12	14	7
9. Military Affairs .....	7	13	14	7
10. Naval Affairs .....	7	12	14	7
11. Insular Affairs .....	7	12	14	7
12. Post Offices and Post Roads .....	6	13	14	7
13. Public Lands .....	7	13	14	7
14. Rivers and Harbors .....	8	12	14	7
15. Ways and Means .....	7	12	14	7
Total .....	102	182	210	105

“In the Sixty-first Congress there were 215 Republicans and 176 Democrats and independents when the committees were made up. In the Sixty-second Congress (the present one) there are 227 Democrats and 164 Republicans and Independents.

“These 15 committees had an aggregate membership in the Sixty-first Congress of 284 members, and in this Congress of 315. The Democratic minority had 102 places in the last Congress, and the Republican minority has been given 105 places in this Congress, an increase of three places, but the total membership of these committees has been increased from 284 to 315, so to maintain the relative proportion of numbers the equation would be as 284, the total number in the Sixty-first Congress, is to 102, the representation accorded the Democrats by the Republicans, as would 315 be to the number the minority would be entitled to if they had maintained their relative number in the House.  $284:102::315:x=113$ .

“The answer of course would be 113, but the Republicans came back with only 164 Members, as compared to 176 for the Democrats in the former Congress, so to ascertain what their relative strength on these committees should be, the equation would be to compare 164 Members with 113 committee places, as 176 Members would compare with the answer.  $164:113::176:x=105$ .

“The resulting answer is 105 Members on the 15 committees that were increased in numbers, and this is exactly what the Democrats gave the Republicans minority on these committees.

“On the other committees in the House the Republicans were given the same representation that the Democrats had before in the same proportion of members to the relative size of the committees, notwithstanding the fact that the Republican minority is much smaller in members than was the Democratic minority in the last Congress. So that the Republicans have more places in

proportion to the number of places on the committees and their Members in the House than was accorded the Democrats in the last Congress by the Republicans.

“Six committees were abolished because they were a useless charge on the Treasury, the Democrats losing 44 and the Republicans 30 places, as they were apportioned in the last Congress.

“On these 15 committees when you work out the relative proportion of the membership of the two sides of this House you have got identically on these committees the same proportion to-day that we had in the last Congress. That proportion, if you work out the ratio in proportion to the membership, is 105 places and we have given 105 places. Now, more than that, on all the other committees of this House, many of them important committees, although we increase our majority we not only give as many places as we had before, but we have given a few additional places to what we had before on these committees. More than that, this is the first time in the history of this House, so far as the memory of man runs to it, when a majority of this House has allowed the minority leader to bring a list of committee assignments to their committee and accept his assignment of his own people to represent his own party without the dotting of an ‘i’ or the crossing of a ‘t.’

The tabulation amended and supplemented to include committee assignments in the Seventy-third Congress is as follows:

Congress.	63d		64th		65th		66th		67th		68th		69th		70th		71st		72d		73d	
	D e m o c r a t i c	R e p u b l i c a n																				
Democratic majority on floor .....	45	.....	19	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	182	.....
Republican majority on floor .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41	.....	178	.....	16	.....	61	.....	38	.....	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Committees:																						
Agriculture .....	14	7	13	8	12	9	8	13	6	15	10	12	9	13	8	13	7	14	13	10	17	8
Appropriations .....	14	7	13	8	12	9	15	20	15	20	14	21	14	21	14	21	14	21	21	14	21	14
Banking and Currency .....	14	7	13	8	12	9	8	13	6	15	10	12	8	13	8	13	7	14	12	9	17	8
Foreign Affairs .....	14	7	13	8	12	9	9	13	6	15	9	12	8	13	8	13	8	14	12	9	17	8
Interstate and Foreign Commerce .....	14	7	13	8	12	9	8	13	6	15	9	12	9	14	9	14	7	14	13	10	17	8
Judiciary .....	14	7	13	8	12	9	8	14	6	15	9	12	9	14	9	14	8	15	13	10	17	8
Merchant Marine and Fisheries .....	14	7	13	8	12	9	8	13	7	14	9	12	8	13	8	14	7	14	12	9	15	6
Military Affairs .....	14	7	13	8	12	9	8	13	6	15	9	12	9	13	8	14	7	14	11	9	16	8
Naval Affairs .....	14	7	13	8	12	9	8	13	6	15	9	12	8	13	8	14	7	14	12	9	17	8
Post Office and Post Roads .....	14	7	13	8	13	9	8	13	6	15	10	12	9	13	8	13	7	14	12	9	16	8
Rivers and Harbors .....	14	7	13	8	12	9	8	13	6	15	9	12	8	13	8	13	7	14	13	10	17	8
Rules .....	7	4	7	4	8	4	4	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	8	4	8	4
Ways and Means .....	14	7	14	8	14	10	10	15	8	17	11	15	10	15	10	15	10	15	15	10	15	10
Totals .....	175	88	164	100	155	113	110	174	88	194	122	163	113	176	110	176	100	185	167	122	202	106

**2185.** On April 18, 1921,<sup>1</sup> John N. Garner, of Texas, offered a resolution providing for the election of minority representation on the standing committees, in the discussion of which he said, in referring to Mr. Meyer London, of New York, who had been elected to the House as a member of the Socialist Party:

May I make a statement touching the appointment of Mr. London? The minority found when it came to make up its list that Mr. London had not been appointed to committees by the majority and by looking over the precedents we found that both the Republican side and the

<sup>1</sup>First session Sixty-seventh Congress, Record, p. 408.

Democratic side heretofore had by custom insisted upon the minority taking care of all the elements that might be in the Congress other than the majority, and we found it necessary to assign Mr. London to the committees to which we have nominated him. I thought I owed it to the House to make that statement.

**2186. The ratio of majority and minority representation on the committees is determined by the party majority on the floor.**

The ratio of majority and minority members on committees naturally varies in proportion to the working majority of the controlling party on the floor.

The relation of the party majority to the ratios on the Ways and Means Committee in recent Congresses is indicated in the following summary:

Congress.	Party majority on floor.	Proportion on committee.	Congress.	Party majority on floor.	Proportion on committee.
Sixtieth .....	55	12 to 7	Sixty-seventh .....	178	17 to 8
Sixty-first .....	38	12 to 7	Sixty-eighth .....	16	15 to 11
Sixty-second .....	66	14 to 7	Sixty-ninth .....	61	15 to 10
Sixty-third .....	145	14 to 7	Seventieth .....	42	15 to 10
Sixty-fourth .....	19	14 to 8	Seventy-first .....	104	15 to 10
Sixty-fifth .....	<sup>1</sup> 6	13 to 10	Seventy-second .....	9	15 to 10
Sixty-sixth .....	41	15 to 10	Seventy-third .....	197	15 to 10

<sup>1</sup> Based upon the vote for Speaker, first session Sixty-fifth Congress, Record, p. 107.

**2187. The ratio between the majority and minority parties on the standing committees varies with the respective membership of the parties in the House, and is fixed by the majority committee on committees.**

On December 7, 1923,<sup>1</sup> the minority caucus having been called to order, the chairman<sup>2</sup> directed the Clerk to read the following communication:

DECEMBER 7, 1923.

Hon. JOHN N. GARNER,  
*Minority Leader.*

MY DEAR MR. GARNER: The committee on committees of the majority this morning fixed the ratio between the majority and minority on the committees of 21 members at 12 to 9; on the Appropriations Committee as at 21 to 14, and on the Ways and Means Committee at 15 to 11, the latter division to be for merely a temporary increase of that committee to 26, to continue no longer than the Sixth-eighth Congress.

Yours very truly,

CLIFFORD IRELAND, *Secretary.*

**2188. An unwritten rule designates certain committees as “exclusive committees,” election to any one of which precludes membership on any other committee.**

The majority have at times placed restrictions upon the selection of minority representation on committees.

On April 18, 1921,<sup>3</sup> Mr. John Garner, of Texas, for the minority, offered a resolution to elect minority members of standing committees.

Mr. Frank W. Mondell, of Wyoming, inquired:

Has the minority followed the rule relative to the exclusive committees?

<sup>1</sup> Caucus Journal, December 1, 1923.

<sup>2</sup> Henry T. Rainey, of Illinois, Chairman.

<sup>3</sup> First session Sixty-seventh Congress, Record, p. 408.

Mr. Henry Allen Cooper, of Wisconsin, asked to what rule the gentleman referred.

Mr. Garner said:

The gentleman from Wisconsin probably does not know that the majority in their conference passed a rule by which they provided for what is known as exclusive committees, naming 10, providing that any Member who served on one of those committees could not serve on another committee.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Mondell added:

The majority did that in making up committees. Some six or seven gentlemen who were on some of the exclusive committees were taken from a second committee.

In participating in the discussion thus occasioned, Mr. James R. Mann, of Illinois, said:

Mr. Speaker, when the rule was adopted providing for the election of committees by the House, instead of the appointment of committees by the Speaker, the Democrats were in control of the House. By their caucus they provided that the Democratic members of the Committee on Ways and Means, whom they selected in caucus, should be their committee on committees. Mr. Underwood, now the distinguished Senator from Alabama, was the former leader of the House and the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means that was to be, and I was the minority leader. I was notified by the Democratic leadership that I could make up the list of the Republican members of the committees with certain restrictions, which were named to me, and submit it to Mr. Underwood, to be presented to the Democratic members of the Committee on Ways and Means. I was notified that certain appointments could not be made. The list was submitted and passed upon, I was told, by the Democratic members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The same course was pursued in the next Congress. When the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Kitchin, became chairman, I submitted my list, or offered to submit my list to him—I do not remember whether I actually submitted it or not—but prior to that time the Democratic leader moved the selection of all members of committees, including vacancies. I was not given the opportunity or the right to move the election of any member of a committee, although, of course, I could have exercised that right; but I was told that in order to have a Republican Member elected on a committee the motion must come from the majority side of the House. I acquiesced in that. I believed it was right and proper. The majority of the House is responsible, in the end, even for the appointment of committees. When Mr. Kitchin became the leader on the Democratic side, as I recall, although my memory is not very fresh on the subject, I offered the resolution for the appointment of the Republican members of the committees. So that the history of the movement has been that the majority is responsible even for the selection of minority members of committees in the end.

Now, the majority this time, through its committee on committees, whose action was ratified in this particular by the Republican conference, provided that certain committees should be exclusive, and that no Member appointed on one of those committees should be appointed on any other committee. It may be proper to make an exception, but in my judgment the Republican conference having passed upon the question, if an exception is made, the exception should be passed upon by the Republican conference. But I supposed that when we notified the minority of the rule adopted that rule would be followed by the minority.

After further discussion, Mr. Garner said:

I understand the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Mann, to say that in case the names of Mr. Sabath and Mr. Riordan were not withdrawn we would be compelled to make a motion to strike them from the list. Now, I am not in a position to speak for the Caucus but I am inclined to take

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<sup>1</sup>The 10 committees referred to include: 1, Ways and Means; 2, Appropriations; 3, Judiciary; 4, Foreign Affairs; 5, Military Affairs; 6, Naval Affairs; 7, Interstate and Foreign Commerce; 8, Agriculture; 9, Rivers and Harbors; 10, Post Office and Post Roads.

the road that will accomplish the most good. The result will probably be the same as you gentlemen have the power, and might makes right, according to the philosophy of some gentlemen.

Whereupon, Mr. Garner, by unanimous consent, withdrew from the list of minority members proposed for election to committees the names of Mr. Adolph J. Sabath, of Illinois, proposed for membership on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, and the name of Mr. Daniel J. Riordan, of New York, proposed for membership on the Committee on Naval Affairs and the Committee on Rules, and proposed their election to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Rules, respectively. The resolution as amended was then adopted.

**2189.** On April 9, 1921,<sup>1</sup> at a session of the minority caucus, on motion of Mr. Finis J. Garrett, of Tennessee, the following resolution was agreed to:

Whereas information has reached the Democratic caucus of the House of Representatives that the majority party in caucus has designated certain committees as "exclusive committees" and provided that no person appointed upon one of these shall be appointed to any other standing committee of the House; and

Whereas it is reported to the Democratic caucus that the majority provided that this rule should apply to the minority as well as to the majority members; and

Whereas the minority feel that they should have the right to determine all questions of policy as to their members for themselves: Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Democratic caucus protests against this action of the majority in so far as it is proposed to apply the rule to the minority as being an unjust invasion of the rights of the minority.

At the following session, the chairman laid before the caucus a letter received in response to the resolution as follows:

APRIL 9, 1921.

Hon. SAM RAYBURN,  
*Chairman Democratic Caucus,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. RAYBURN: I acknowledge receipt of your letter of present date with the accompanying resolution of the Democratic caucus of the House.

During the proceedings of the Republican conference just adjourned the following proceedings were had:

As part of the report of the committee on committees the following resolution was placed before the conference:

*Resolved*, That the following be exclusive committees and no Member assigned to any of said committees shall be assigned to any other standing committee except the Committee on the Disposition of Useless Executive Papers, and that this shall apply to the minority as well as to the majority."

Upon the chairman of the conference calling attention to the fact that the Democratic caucus has submitted a protest to the last clause of the resolution, a division was made of the resolution and the last clause, to wit, "That this shall apply to the minority as well as to the majority," was submitted as a separate proposition. Pending the consideration of this proposition your letter and the accompanying resolution were read by direction of the chairman of the conference. After debate the proposition as part of the report of the committee was adopted unanimously by the conference.

Respectfully yours,

H. M. TOWNER.

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<sup>1</sup> Caucus Journal, April 9, 1921.

**2190.** On December 7, 1923,<sup>1</sup> in the minority caucus, the following resolution proposed by Mr. John N. Garner, of Texas, was agreed to:

*Resolved,* That the following be considered exclusive House Committees, to wit:

Agriculture.	Military Affairs.
Appropriations.	Naval Affairs.
Banking and Currency.	Post Office and Post Roads.
Foreign Affairs.	Rivers and Harbors.
Interstate and Foreign Commerce.	Rules.
Judiciary.	Ways and Means.
Merchant Marine and Fisheries.	

**2191.** On April 15, 1921,<sup>2</sup> after the majority members of the standing committees had been elected and before minority members had been nominated, Mr. Finis J. Garrett, of Tennessee, the minority leader, in objecting to the functioning of committees before the election of minority members, said:

You have undertaken to lay down the rules under which the minority members shall be appointed to committees, and now you undertake to say that you will report legislation before the minority has an opportunity to formulate its committee.

Mr. Mondell, of Wyoming, a majority leader, replied:

Mr. Speaker, the majority does not intend to be lectured by the gentleman from Tennessee. When his party was in the majority they compelled us to submit our committee lists for their inspection.

Mr. James R. Mann, of Illinois, corroborated:

That is true, because I submitted the list.

**2192. Since 1880 the appointment of select committees has by rule rested solely with the Speaker.**

**Since 1890 the rule has provided that conference committees be appointed by the Speaker, although such has been the practice since the earliest days of the House.**

**History of section 2 of Rule X.**

Section 2 of Rule X provides:

The Speaker shall appoint all select and conference committees which shall be ordered by the House from time to time.

With the exception of a slight amendment in phraseology affected in 1911,<sup>3</sup> in order to conform to amendments in other sections of the rule transferring from the Speaker to the House the power to appoint committees, this section has remained unchanged since 1890.<sup>4</sup>

**2193. Motions to instruct the Speaker in the appointment of conference committees have not been entertained.**

<sup>1</sup> Caucus Journal, December 7, 1923.

<sup>2</sup> First session Sixty-seventh Congress, Record, p. 355.

<sup>3</sup> First session Sixty-second Congress, Record, pp. 12, 80.

<sup>4</sup> First session Fifty-first Congress, Report No. 23.

On December 20, 1913,<sup>1</sup> the House had agreed to send to conference the bill (H.R. 7837) the currency bill, and instructions to conferees had been given, when Mr. Thomas W. Hardwick, of Georgia, proposed to offer the following:

*Resolved*, That the Speaker name a conference committee composed of nine members of the Banking and Currency Committee to meet with a like committee of the Senate.

Mr. Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, raised a point of order against the resolution.

Mr. James R. Mann, of Illinois, said:

The rule is: "The Speaker shall appoint all select and conference committees which shall be ordered by the House from time to time."

It is absolute; not conditional.

The Speaker<sup>2</sup> sustained the point of order and appointed as conferees on the part of the House, Mr. Carter Glass, of Virginia; Mr. Charles A. Korbly, of Indiana; and Mr. Everis A. Hayes, of California.

**2194. The fact that a Member's seat is contested is not necessarily taken into account in appointing him to committees.**

Members whose seats were contested for various reasons have been appointed to committees while such contest were pending as follows:

In the Sixty-fourth Congress,<sup>3</sup> Mr. William J. Cary, of Wisconsin; Mr. Isaac Siegel, of New York; Mr. William Elza Williams, of Illinois, Mr. Ebenezer J. Hill, of Connecticut; Mr. George Holden Tinkham, of Massachusetts; Mr. Richard S. Whaley, of South Carolina; and Mr. Frederick C. Hicks, of New York.

In the Sixty-seventh Congress,<sup>4</sup> Mr. Guy L. Shaw, of Illinois; Mr. Adolph J. Sabath, of Illinois; Mr. Stanley H. Kunz, of Illinois; Mr. Harry B. Hawes, of Missouri; Mr. Lilius B. Rainey, of Alabama; Mr. Robert L. Doughton, of North Carolina; and Mr. Thomas W. Harrison, of Virginia.

In the Sixty-eighth Congress,<sup>5</sup> Mr. Edward E. Miller, of Illinois; Mr. Sol Bloom, of New York; Mr. R. Lee Moore, of Georgia; Mr. James R. Buckley, of Illinois; Mr. Royal H. Weller, of New York; and Mr. Fiorello H. LaGuardia, of New York.

**2195. Rank on committees is fixed by the order in which elected, and, in event of simultaneous election by the order in which named in the nomination resolution.**

On April 18, 1921,<sup>6</sup> Mr. John N. Garner, of Texas, offered a resolution designating members of the standing committees. While debate on the resolution was in progress Mr. Garner withdrew the names of Mr. Daniel J. Riordan, of New York, and Mr. Adolph J. Sabath, of Illinois. The resolution was then agreed to.

<sup>1</sup> Second session Sixth-third Congress, Record, p. 1316.

<sup>2</sup> Champ Clark, of Missouri, Speaker.

<sup>3</sup> First Session Sixty-fourth Congress, Record, p. 241.

<sup>4</sup> First session Sixty-seventh Congress, Record, pp. 85, 407.

<sup>5</sup> First session Sixty-eighth Congress, Record, pp. 331, 334.

<sup>6</sup> First session Sixty-seventh Congress, Record, p. 408.

On the following day,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Garner offered a further resolution electing to standing committees certain minority Members, including Mr. Riordan and Mr. Sabath.

Mr. James R. Mann, of Illinois, suggested:

In reference to the two Members whose names were withdrawn temporarily on yesterday, the resolution does not indicate where they would be placed upon these committees. I assume the intention was to place them in the rank they held before?

Thereupon Mr. Garner proposed:

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Mann, has called my attention to the fact that the resolution does not provide the position and rank that these gentlemen shall take. I ask unanimous consent that the rank of these gentlemen, should this resolution pass, be the same as if their names had been included in the resolution of yesterday and in accord with their service in the House.

There was no objection and, the resolution having been agreed to, Mr. Riordan and Mr. Sabath were accorded the rank on their respective committees indicated in the original resolution from which their names had been withdrawn.

**2196 Instance wherein a Member who had been seated by the House in a contested-election case was restored to original rank on committees.**

On February 15, 1930,<sup>2</sup> following the decision<sup>3</sup> of the contested-election case of Wurzbach *v.* McCloskey, seating Mr. Harry M. Wurzbach, of Texas, the House agreed to the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That Harry M. Wurzbach, of Texas, be, and he is hereby, elected a member of the standing Committee of the House on Military Affairs at the position on said committee where he would have been placed had he been seated at the opening of this Congress.

**2197. A Member may decline to serve upon a committee only with permission of the House.**

**Forms of resignations from committees.**

On March 1, 1910,<sup>4</sup> the Speaker<sup>5</sup> laid before the House the following communication:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, February 28, 1910.*

Hon. JOSEPH G. CANNON,  
*Speaker House of Representatives.*

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg respectfully to hereby resign from the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

I am, very truly, yours,

W. G. BRANTLEY.

The Speaker put the question:

Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia will be relieved from service on the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

There was no objection, and the Speaker announced the appointment of Mr. S. A. Roddenbery, of Georgia, to fill the vacancy.

<sup>1</sup> Record, p. 451.

<sup>2</sup> Second session Seventy-first Congress, Record, p. 3736.

<sup>3</sup> See sec. 7492p of this work.

<sup>4</sup> Second session Sixty-first Congress, Record, p. 2555.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph G. Cannon, of Illinois, Speaker.

**2198.** On April 19, 1921,<sup>1</sup> during the disposition of business on the Speaker's table, the Speaker directed the Clerk to read the following communication:

WASHINGTON, *April 19, 1921.*

Hon. FREDERICK H. GILLETT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby respectfully tender my resignation from the following committees:  
Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Flood Control, Railways and Canals.  
Yours, very truly,

HERBERT J. DRANE.

The Speaker submitted:

Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection, and the House thereupon elected Mr. Drane a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs.

**2199. Instances wherein Members have not been appointed on committees.**

In recent years it has become the custom to excuse the floor leaders from committee duties and their names frequently have been omitted in making up the committee assignments. Mr. James R. Mann, of Illinois, minority leader in the Sixty-second Congress, was charged by his party organization with the duty of assignment of minority Members to committees,<sup>2</sup> and provided no assignment for himself. In later Congresses when this responsibility was transferred to a committee on committees, the exemption was continued during the term of Mr. Mann's leadership.<sup>3</sup>

Likewise Mr. Champ Clark, of Missouri, on his accession to the minority leadership in the Sixty-sixth<sup>4</sup> Congress was not assigned to committee duty. Mr. Frank W. Mondell, of Wyoming, as majority leader in the Sixty-sixth Congress,<sup>5</sup> and Mr. Nicholas Longworth, of Ohio, and Mr. John Q. Tilson, of Connecticut, majority leaders in the Sixty-eighth<sup>6</sup> and Sixty-ninth<sup>7</sup> Congresses, respectively, do not appear on the rolls of the committees of the Houses for these sessions.

On the contrary, Mr. Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, majority leader in the Sixty-second Congress,<sup>8</sup> and Mr. Claude Kitchen,<sup>9</sup> of North Carolina, his successor, retained membership on the Committee on Ways and Means, and Mr. Finis J. Garrett, minority leader in the Sixty-eighth and Sixty-ninth Congresses,<sup>10</sup> served as a member of the Committee on Rules.

<sup>1</sup> First session Sixty-seventh Congress, Record, p. 451.

<sup>2</sup> First session Sixty-seventh Congress, Record, p. 409.

<sup>3</sup> First session Sixty-third Congress, Record, p. 1871; First Session Sixty-fourth Congress, Record, p. 240; First session Sixty-fifth Congress, Record, p. 796.

<sup>4</sup> First session Sixty-sixth Congress, Record, p. 247.

<sup>5</sup> First session Sixty-sixth Congress, Record, p. 11.

<sup>6</sup> First session Sixty-eighth Congress, Record, p. 331.

<sup>7</sup> First session Sixty-ninth Congress, Record, p. 930.

<sup>8</sup> First session Sixty-second Congress, Record, p. 161.

<sup>9</sup> First session Sixty-third Congress, Record, p. 1871; First session Sixty-fourth Congress, Record, p. 240; First session Sixty-fifth Congress, Record, p. 113.

<sup>10</sup> First session Sixty-eighth Congress, Record, p. 334; First session Sixty-ninth Congress, Record, p. 932.

**2200. A Senator having resigned from all committee assignments, the Senate accepted his resignation and elected successors to the vacancies thus created.**

On April 29, 1932,<sup>1</sup> in the Senate, Mr. Huey P. Long, of Louisiana, in the course of his remarks in debate, said:

I send to the desk, Mr. President, my resignation from every committee in the United States Senate that has been given to me by the Democratic leadership since I have been here. I ask that it be read by the clerk.

The Chief Clerk read as follows:

To the PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE:

I hereby resign as a member of the Committees on Naval Affairs, Manufactures, Commerce, and Interoceanic Canals.

HUEY P. LONG,

*United States Senator from Louisiana.*

The Vice President<sup>2</sup> announced that the letter of resignation would lie on the table, and on May 3,<sup>3</sup> Mr. Joseph T. Robinson, of Arkansas, requested:

Mr. President, I ask that the resignation of the Senator from Louisiana, Mr. Long, from the following committees be accepted: Commerce, Naval Affairs, Manufactures, and Interoceanic Canals.

The Vice President put the question:

Without objection, the Senator from Louisiana will be excused from further attendance upon the committees named.

There was no objection.

Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Robinson, by unanimous consent, it was—

*Ordered*, That the junior Senator from Arkansas, Mrs. Caraway, be assigned to service upon the Committee on Commerce; that the senior Senator from North Carolina, Mr. Morrison, be assigned to service upon the Committee on Naval Affairs; that the junior Senator from Georgia, Mr. Cohen, be assigned to service upon the Committee on Naval Affairs; that the junior Senator from Georgia Mr. Cohen, be assigned to service upon the Committee on Manufactures; that the senior Senator from Missouri, Mr. Hawes, be assigned to service upon the Committee on Interoceanic Canals; and that the junior Senator from North Carolina, Mr. Bailey, be assigned to service upon the Committee on Military Affairs.

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<sup>1</sup>First session Seventy-second Congress, Record, p. 9214.

<sup>2</sup>Charles Curtis, Vice President.

<sup>3</sup>Record, p. 9453.