

in the course of discussing procedures relating to the Private Calendar, remarked as follows:⁽¹⁶⁾

The objectors have the responsibility of carefully studying all bills which are placed on the Private Calendar. When the Private Calendar is called, the objectors are on the floor ready to object to any private bill which they feel is objectionable for any reason. Seated near them to provide technical assistance are the majority and minority legislative clerks.

Should any Member have a doubt or question about a particular private bill, he can get assistance from the objectors, their clerks, or from the Member who introduced the bill.

Agreement as to Bills to be Considered

§ 15.5 The official majority and minority objectors for the Private Calendar agree upon rules governing their consideration of private bills, and announce such rules in the House. The official objectors usually agree that they will consider only those bills which have been on the Private Calendar for a period of seven calendar days.

In the 89th Congress, Mr. Edward P. Boland, of Massachusetts, in the course of describing proce-

16. 111 CONG. REC. 3914, 89th Cong. 1st Sess., Mar. 2, 1965.

dures relating to the Private Calendar, announced as follows:⁽¹⁷⁾

The great volume of private bills and the desire to have an opportunity to study them carefully before they are called on the Private Calendar has caused the six objectors to agree upon certain ground rules. Those rules limit consideration of bills placed on the Private Calendar only shortly before the Calendar is called. The agreement is as follows:

Reaffirming the policy initially adopted on June 3, 1958, the members of the majority and minority Private Calendar objectors committees have today agreed that during the 89th Congress they will consider only those bills which have been on the Private Calendar for a period of seven calendar days, excluding the day the bills are reported and the day the Private Calendar is called.

It is agreed that the majority and minority legislative clerks will not submit to the objectors any bills which do not meet this requirement.

This policy will be strictly observed except during the closing days of each session when House rules are suspended.

§ 16. Campaign Committees; Informal Party Groups

Party campaign committees exist for the purpose of aiding in

17. 111 CONG. REC. 3914, 3915, 89th Cong. 1st Sess., Mar. 2, 1965. Similar announcements have been made in other Congresses; see, for example, 115 CONG. REC. 6656, 91st Cong. 1st Sess., Mar. 18, 1969.

the election of party members to the House.⁽¹⁸⁾ The campaign committees raise and distribute campaign funds for use in the general elections in order to effectuate such purpose.⁽¹⁹⁾ The Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in past Congresses has been an ex officio member of the Steering Committee.⁽²⁰⁾

In addition to the formal party structure with which this chapter is primarily concerned, there exist a number of informal party groups. For example, the Democratic Study Group⁽¹⁾ conducts research and prepares reports with respect to issues relating to proposed legislation, and has been influential in promoting certain party reforms, such as procedures in the caucus for voting on nominations for standing committee

chairmen. The Democratic Study Group maintains a “whip” system for purposes of ensuring its members’ attendance in the House when matters of interest to the group are under consideration.

The Republican Wednesday Club also conducts research and furnishes information to its members with respect to issues that are of interest to the club. The status of pending legislation is discussed at meetings of the club.⁽²⁾

The above groups are discussed merely by way of example, there being a number of informal groups of a political or social nature among the membership of the House. The membership of some of the informal groups is bipartisan.

18. See the discussion of party campaign committees in Congressional Quarterly’s *Guide to the Congress of the United States*, Congressional Quarterly Service (Washington, D.C., 1971), p. 606.

19. Certain provisions of Rule XLIII of the House rules are of interest on the subject of campaign funds generally. See Rule XLIII clauses 6, 7 (*House Rules and Manual* §939, 1973).

20. See § 13, supra.

1. For further discussion of the Democratic Study Group, see Ripley, Randall B., *Party Leaders in the House of Representatives*, The Brookings Institution (Washington, D.C., 1967), pp. 38 (note), 124, 176.

2. For further discussion of the Wednesday Club and other Republican clubs, see Ripley, Randall B., *Party Leaders in the House of Representatives*, The Brookings Institution (Washington, D.C., 1967), pp. 178 and 179 (note).