

Resolved, That this Democratic Caucus express its unanimous gratitude to Speaker John W. McCormack for his leadership and guidance during the election period just completed. . . .

Expressions of Praise or Recognition

§ 3.19 On special occasions, the caucus or conference chairman has made appropriate remarks of felicitation or recognition.

On many occasions, the caucus or conference chairman has been among those offering expressions of felicitation or recognition. Thus, during proceedings relating to a resolution offered in the 91st Congress commending Speaker John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts, on his length of service as Speaker, the conference chairman, John B. Anderson, of Illinois, was among those speaking in recognition of the Speaker's record of service.⁽⁸⁾

Similarly, the chairman has announced birthdays and the like, extending appropriate felicitations.⁽⁹⁾

8. 116 CONG. REC. 17023, 91st Cong. 2d Sess., May 26, 1970.

9. See, for example, 112 CONG. REC. 15706, 89th Cong. 2d Sess., July 14, 1966 (birthday of party floor leader).

§ 4. Adoption of Rules; Recent Changes

[Note: Later versions of the caucus rules will be discussed in supplements to this edition as they appear.]

The party caucus or conference adopts rules that govern its proceedings.⁽¹⁰⁾ The Republicans have in the past adopted as the rules for the conference the rules of the preceding Congress so far as applicable and except as modified.⁽¹¹⁾ Democratic Caucus rules adopted at the commencement of each Congress have, with few exceptions, remained substantially unchanged for a period of many years. The earlier caucus rules are set forth elsewhere,⁽¹²⁾ and a more recent, though substantially similar, version was inserted in the Record of the 92d Congress.⁽¹³⁾ Only the significant changes in the rules will be noted here.⁽¹⁴⁾

10. See 8 Cannon's Precedents §§ 3603, 3604a, 3609, and 3610.

11. 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3610. See also Riddick, Floyd M., *Congressional Procedure*, Chapman and Grimes (Boston, 1941), p. 32.

12. See 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3609.

13. 117 CONG. REC. 434, 92d Cong. 1st Sess., Jan. 25, 1971.

14. Further discussion of the caucus rules as they relate to specific subjects is to be found in the sections that deal with such subjects. See, for

Some changes have taken place in the caucus rules with respect to time and place of meeting and the agenda. Former rule 3⁽¹⁵⁾ provided simply that “Meetings of the Democratic Caucus may be called by the Chairman upon his own motion, and shall be called by him whenever requested in writing by 25 members of the caucus.”

The present rule⁽¹⁶⁾ specifies in some detail the conditions under which meetings will be held and the matters that will form the agenda.

Present rule 4 provides, as did the former rule 4, that “A quorum of the Caucus shall consist of a majority of the Democratic Members of the House.” Additional language in the present rule 4, however, sets forth specific limits on the business that may be transacted in the absence of a quorum. The rule states:⁽¹⁷⁾

4. . . . If the absence of a quorum is established, the chairman may continue the meeting for purposes of dis-

example, §9, *infra*, for discussion of election of Members to committees; and §10, *infra*, for discussion of instances in which party members will be considered bound by vote of the caucus.

15. 8 Cannon’s Precedents §3609.

16. Rule 3, Democratic Caucus Rules (July 20, 1971), quoted in §3, *supra*.

17. Rule 4, Democratic Caucus Rules (July 20, 1971).

cussion only, but no motion of any kind, except a motion to adjourn, shall be in order at such continued meeting.

Finally, with respect to persons permitted to attend meetings of the caucus, the former rule 10⁽¹⁸⁾ prohibited all but certain persons from attending meetings. The present rule 10⁽¹⁹⁾ gives to the caucus chairman some authority to admit persons to meetings.

§5. Time and Place of Meetings

A caucus rule, quoted above,⁽¹⁾ contains detailed provisions as to when caucus meetings may or must be held.

The Hall of the House may be used for caucus meetings. A rule

18. 8 Cannon’s Precedents §3609.

19. Democratic Caucus Rules (July 20, 1971), quoted in §3, *supra*.

Note: An addendum to the caucus rules as adopted in 1973 set forth certain procedures to be followed when it was proposed that a bill be considered in the House pursuant to a closed rule. The procedures to be followed in such circumstances were designed primarily to afford the caucus an opportunity to decide whether the bill should be open to particular amendments. Some discussion of the operation of this provision can be found in Ch. 21, *infra*, of this edition. Further discussion will be found in this chapter in supplements to this edition as they appear.

1. Rule 3, Democratic Caucus Rules (July 20, 1971), quoted in §3, *supra*.