

D. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE OF MEMBER

§ 20. In General; Definition

Under Rule IX,⁽²⁰⁾ the House is deemed to be presented with a question of personal privilege whenever a question arises as to the rights, reputation, and conduct of a Member, individually, in his representative capacity.⁽¹⁾

While a question of personal privilege need not be raised in the form of a resolution, a Member raising such a question must in the first instance state to the Chair the grounds upon which the question is based.⁽²⁾ Once a Member is recognized for the purpose of raising a question of personal privilege, the scope of his argument is limited to the question raised.⁽³⁾ Accepted practice also precludes the question being raised either during the time of another Member's control of the floor⁽⁴⁾ or while another question of privilege is pending before the House.⁽⁵⁾

20. *House Rules and Manual* §661 (1973).

1. Basis of questions of personal privilege, see §§ 24 et seq., *infra*.
2. See § 21.1, *infra*.
3. See §§ 22.5, 22.6, *infra*.
4. See §§ 23.2, 23.3, *infra*.
5. 80 CONG. REC. 8222, 74th Cong. 2d Sess. See § 5.4, *supra*, for a detailed discussion of this precedent.

§ 21. Raising the Question; Procedure***Statement of Grounds***

§ 21.1 In raising a question of personal privilege a Member in the first instance must state to the Chair for his decision the grounds upon which he bases his question.

On Apr. 11, 1935,⁽⁶⁾ Mr. Joseph P. Monaghan, of Montana, rose to a question of personal privilege and stated, with reference to Rule IX, "under the question of personal privilege I cite the integrity of the proceedings of the House. I cannot see that this rule adequately protects this House so far as giving it and the public adequate information as to the rule."

A point of order was then made by Mr. John J. O'Connor, of New York, that the gentleman had not stated a question of personal privilege.

In his ruling sustaining the point of order, the Speaker⁽⁷⁾ stated:

6. 79 CONG. REC. 5454, 5455, 74th Cong. 1st Sess. For additional illustrations see 118 CONG. REC. 13491-97, 92d Cong. 2d Sess., Apr. 19, 1972; and 84 CONG. REC. 5033-35, 76th Cong. 1st Sess., May 2, 1939.
7. Joseph W. Byrns (Tenn.).