

stricken from the committee amendment.

§ 37. Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Committee on Foreign Affairs has been a standing committee of the House since 1822.⁽¹⁹⁾ Its jurisdiction pursuant to the 1973 rules⁽¹⁾ read as follows:

- (a) Relations of the United States with foreign nations generally.
- (b) Acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries.
- (c) Establishment of boundary lines between the United States and foreign nations.
- (d) Foreign loans.
- (e) International conferences and congresses.
- (f) Intervention abroad and declarations of war.
- (g) Measures relating to the diplomatic service.

19. 4 Hinds' Precedents §4162. The name of the committee was changed to the Committee on International Relations in the 94th Congress [H. Res. 163, 121 CONG. REC. 7343, 7344, 94th Cong. 1st Sess., Mar. 19, 1975], but was changed back to the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the 96th Congress [H. Res. 89, 125 CONG. REC. —, 96th Cong. 1st Sess., Feb. 5, 1979].

1. Rule XI clause 7, *House Rules and Manual* §689 (1973). See Rule X clause 1(h), *House Rules and Manual* §677 (1979).

(h) Measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad.

(i) Neutrality.

(j) Protection of American citizens abroad and expatriation.

(k) The American National Red Cross.

(l) United Nations Organization and international financial and monetary organizations.

The rules⁽²⁾ also provide:

No bill for the payment or adjudication of any private claim against the Government shall be referred, except by unanimous consent, to any other than the following committees, namely: To the Committee on Foreign Affairs or to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The 1973 subcommittee structure for the Committee on Foreign Affairs consisted of four subject matter subcommittees, five regional subcommittees, and one special subcommittee, as follows:

SUBJECT MATTER SUBCOMMITTEES

- (1) Foreign Economic Policy;
- (2) International Organizations and Movements;
- (3) National Security Policy and Scientific Development; and
- (4) State Department Organization and Foreign Operations.

REGIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES

- (1) Africa;
- (2) Asian and Pacific Affairs;

2. Rule XXI clause 4, *House Rules and Manual* §845 (1979).

- (3) Europe;
- (4) Inter-American Affairs; and
- (5) Near East and South Asia.

SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Special Subcommittee for Review of Foreign Aid Programs.

The following list,⁽³⁾ consisting of the major activities of nine of the subcommittees during the 92d Congress, offers an insight into their jurisdictional scope:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY

- (1) Coordinating U.S. foreign economic policy (hearings in full Committee);
- (2) British entry into Common Market (hearings);
- (3) Economic policy toward Japan (hearings);
- (4) Foreign policy implications of energy crisis (hearings);
- (5) Italian war claims (hearing);
- (6) New economic policy (hearings);
- (7) Trade adjustment assistance (hearings);
- (8) United States-Canadian economic relations (hearings); and
- (9) U.S. foreign economic policy (hearings).

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

- (1) Atlantic Union delegation (hearings; markup);

3. This list was compiled by Roger H. Davidson for the use of the Select Committee on Committees. See "Monographs on the Committees of the House of Representatives" (93d Cong. 2d Sess., Dec. 13, 1974), committee print, pp. 52-54 [enumeration added].

- (2) International health problems (hearings);

- (3) International organizations authorizations (hearings; markups);

- (4) Law of international organizations;

- (5) Micronesian claims (hearing; markup);

- (6) Moratoriums on killing wildlife (hearings; markups);

- (7) Northwest Atlantic fisheries (hearing; markup);

- (8) Spokane International Exhibition on the Environment (markup);

- (9) Study missions;

- (10) U.N. activities (hearings);

- (11) U.N. Development Program (study tour);

- (12) U.N. sanctions against Rhodesia (hearings); and

- (13) World environment problems (hearings).

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY AND SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS

- (1) Indian Ocean (hearings);

- (2) Military assistance training (study);

- (3) National security policy and changing power alignment (hearings-symposiums);

- (4) Prisoners of war (hearings);

- (5) Science, technology, and diplomacy (documents);

- (6) Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (briefings);

- (7) Transmittal of executive agreements to Congress (hearing; markup); and

- (8) War powers (hearings; markup).

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

- (1) Diplomatic privileges (markup);

- (2) Passport legislation (hearing; markup);
- (3) Simas Kudirka case (hearings);
- (4) State Department authorizations (hearings; markups);
- (5) State Department grievance procedures (hearings);
- (6) USIA activities, authorizations (hearings);
- (7) USIA authorization (hearings; markups);
- (8) USIA coverage of Greece (hearing); and
- (9) USIA impact survey (study).

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA

- (1) North Africa (hearing with Near East Subcommittee);
- (2) Study missions to Africa (study tours);
- (3) U.N. and Africa (hearing with International Organizations and Movements Subcommittee);
- (4) U.S. business involvement in Southern Africa (hearings); and
- (5) U.S. investments in Southern Africa (study).

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

- (1) American-Korean relations (hearings);
- (2) China question (hearings; briefing);
- (3) East Pakistan crisis (hearings; study tour);
- (4) New China policy (hearings); and
- (5) Vietnam war legislation (hearing).

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE

- (1) Cold war (hearings);
- (2) Conference on European security (hearings);

- (3) European community and American interests (study tours with International Organizations and Movements);
- (4) European developments (briefings);
- (5) European parliamentarians (study tour);
- (6) Greece, Spain, and NATO (hearings; study tour);
- (7) Homeporting in Greece (hearing);
- (8) International narcotics traffic (hearings);
- (9) Northern Ireland (hearings);
- (10) Soviet Jewry (hearings; markup); and
- (11) Soviet role in Middle East (hearings with Near East Subcommittee).

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- (1) Fishing rights (hearing);
- (2) Inter-American Development Bank (hearings);
- (3) Inter-American Foundation (hearing);
- (4) International Boundary and Water Commission (hearing; markup);
- (5) Latin American development (hearings);
- (6) Latin American events (hearings; briefings);
- (7) Latin American Parliament (tours);
- (8) Mexican-American Boundary Treaty of 1972 (hearing; markup);
- (9) Mexican trade (hearing);
- (10) Panama Canal (hearings);
- (11) Soviet activities in Cuba (document); and
- (12) Tijuana River flood control (hearing).

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EAST

- (1) American schools and hospitals abroad (hearing);

- (2) Future of Jerusalem (hearing);
- (3) Homeporting in Greece (hearings with Europe Subcommittee);
- (4) Middle East issues (briefings);
- (5) Middle East policy (report and recommendations);
- (6) North Africa (hearings with Africa Subcommittee);
- (7) Peace in the Middle East (hearings);
- (8) Sino-Soviet conflict: impact in Middle East (hearing);
- (9) Soviet involvement in Middle East (hearings with Europe Subcommittee);
- (10) U.N. Relief and Works Agency (hearing); and
- (11) U.S. policy toward Persian Gulf (hearings).

Over the years, the committee's jurisdiction has included bills⁽⁴⁾ to regulate bridges and dams on international waters, to maintain treaty rights of American fishermen, to provide for extradition agreements with foreign nations, to arrange for international arbitration, and to incorporate the American National Red Cross and protect its insignia. The committee has dealt with legislation pertaining to extradition with foreign nations, international arbitration, violations of neutrality, affairs of the consular service, creation of U.S. courts in foreign

4. *House Rules and Manual* §690 (1973). See also Rule X clause 1(h), *House Rules and Manual* §677 (note) (1979).

countries, treaty regulations protecting fur seals, subjects of commercial treaties and reciprocal arrangements,⁽⁵⁾ and some claims of an international nature.⁽⁶⁾

As the precedents reveal, the committee's jurisdiction has also extended to such subjects as celebrating Pan American Day in the House,⁽⁷⁾ giving effect to an international convention on the regulation of whaling,⁽⁸⁾ establishing a District of Columbia corporation to aid international communications by domestic groups,⁽⁹⁾ extending the time within which to build a bridge across the Rio Grande River,⁽¹⁰⁾ receiving the Secretary of State's response to a resolution of inquiry on troop commitments abroad,⁽¹¹⁾ waiving Neu-

5. In the later practice, the Committee on Ways and Means has considered such matters. *House Rules and Manual* §677 (1979).

6. In the past, for example, the committee has reported bills indemnifying governments for certain claims of their citizens; see 7 Cannon's Precedents §1882. It should be borne in mind that prior to 1947, there existed a Committee on Claims, the jurisdiction of which was then transferred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7. §37.9, *infra*.

8. §37.6, *infra*.

9. §37.4, *infra*.

10. §37.10, *infra*.

11. §37.11, *infra*.

trality Act restrictions on the President in the "Lend-Lease" bill,⁽¹²⁾ receiving memorials of sympathy from foreign legislative bodies,⁽¹³⁾ and entertaining private claims arising out of the Foreign Service.⁽¹⁴⁾

The Committee Reform Amendments of 1974 vested jurisdiction in the Committee on Foreign Affairs over international economic policy, export controls, international commodity agreements other than sugar, international education, and trading with the enemy, and transferred jurisdiction from the committee over international financial and monetary organizations (to the Committee on Banking and Currency) over international fishing agreements (to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries). The Committee Reform Amendments also granted the committee special oversight jurisdiction (see Rule X clause 3(d), *House Rules and Manual* § 693 [1979]):⁽¹⁵⁾

(d) The Committee on International Relations shall have the function of reviewing and studying, on a continuing

12. § 37.7, *infra*.

13. § 37.8, *infra*.

14. § 37.5, *infra*; see also Rule XXI, clause 4, *House Rules and Manual* § 845 (1979).

15. H. Res. 988, 120 CONG. REC. 34447-70, 93d Cong. 2d Sess., Oct. 8, 1974.

basis, all laws, programs and Government activities dealing with or involving customs administration, intelligence activities relating to foreign policy, international financial and monetary organizations, and international fishing agreements.

In the 95th Congress, the Committee on Foreign Affairs was given jurisdiction over non-proliferation of nuclear technology and hardware and over international agreements on nuclear exports, upon the abolition of the legislative jurisdiction of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.⁽¹⁶⁾

Appointments to U.S. Court for China

§ 37.1 The Committee on Foreign Affairs and not the Committee on the Judiciary maintained jurisdiction of a bill authorizing the appointment of a commissioner for the United States Court for China and defining his duties.

On Apr. 2, 1935,⁽¹⁷⁾ Speaker Joseph W. Byrns, of Tennessee, recognized Emanuel Celler, of New York, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, who by direction

16. H. Res. 5, 123 CONG. REC. 53, 95th Cong. 1st Sess., Jan. 4 1977.

17. 79 CONG. REC. 4878, 4879, 74th Cong. 1st Sess.

of that committee requested unanimous consent that the bill (H.R. 6547), be rereferred from the Committee on Foreign Affairs to the Committee on the Judiciary.

As Mr. Celler explained:

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and he stated he wanted some time to confer with the Parliamentarian. I may say, however, that bills of this character were heretofore referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs because of an Executive order issued by the late President Theodore Roosevelt back in 1906 which conferred jurisdiction over that court to the State Department, but recently, on June 10, 1933, by Executive order of Franklin D. Roosevelt, jurisdiction over the United States Court for China, as well as insular courts, was transferred to the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice now exercises jurisdiction which the Department of State heretofore exercised. The Judiciary Committee feels that the reference of these bills, conferring, taking away, or enlarging jurisdiction over these courts, and setting up purely judicial functions, should be to the Judiciary Committee and not to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Shortly thereafter, objection having been voiced to the unanimous-consent request, Mr. Celler moved that H.R. 6547 be rereferred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The Chair explained that the motion was not debatable, and when the question was taken on a division vote (de-

manded by Mr. Celler) there were ayes 37, noes 84. So the motion was rejected.

Citizens' International Claims

§ 37.2 The Committee on Foreign Affairs and not the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has jurisdiction of an executive communication proposing a bill to amend the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949.

On Mar. 28, 1958,⁽¹⁸⁾ Oren Harris, of Arkansas, Chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, obtained unanimous consent to have a letter (Exec. Comm. No. 1736), from the Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, transmitting a draft of the proposed legislation described above rereferred from his committee to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

§ 37.3 The Committee on Foreign Affairs and not the Committee on Claims (now the Committee on the Judiciary) had jurisdiction of a bill for the payment of awards and appraisals heretofore made

¹⁸. 104 CONG. REC. 5693, 85th Cong. 2d Sess.

in favor of citizens of the United States on claims presented under the General Claims Convention of Sept. 8, 1923, between the United States and Mexico.

On May 23, 1938,⁽¹⁹⁾ Sam D. McReynolds, of Tennessee, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, obtained unanimous consent to have the Committee on Claims (now the Committee on the Judiciary), discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 3104), and to have it rereferred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In so doing, Mr. McReynolds noted that there was no objection on the part of the Committee on Claims.⁽²⁰⁾

D.C. Corporation to Aid International Communications

§ 37.4 The Committee on Foreign Affairs, and not the Committee on the District of Columbia, considered a measure providing for the establishment of a District of Columbia corporation intended to provide support for the activities of private American organizations en-

19. 83 CONG. REC. 7273, 75th Cong. 3d Sess.

20. S. 3104 was reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs on May 26, 1938 (H. Rept. No. 2496).

gaged in the field of communications with foreign peoples.

On June 21, 1971,⁽²¹⁾ John L. McMillan, of South Carolina, Chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia, obtained unanimous consent to have his committee discharged from further consideration of an executive communication (Exec. Comm. No. 740), and to have it rereferred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Foreign or Diplomatic Service

§ 37.5 The Committee on Foreign Affairs has jurisdiction over private claims arising out of the Foreign Service.

On May 29, 1936,⁽²²⁾ Speaker Joseph W. Byrns, of Tennessee, recognized John J. O'Connor, of New York, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, who requested unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the following resolution reported from that committee:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 498

Resolved, That Rule XXI, clause 3, be, and is hereby, amended to read as follows:

"3. No bill for the payment or adjudication of any private claim against

21. 117 CONG. REC. 21062, 92d Cong. 1st Sess.

22. 80 CONG. REC. 8352, 74th Cong. 2d Sess.

the Government shall be referred, except by unanimous consent; to any other than the following-named committees, namely: To the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to the Committee on Invalid Pensions, to the Committee on Pensions, to the Committee on Claims, to the Committee on War Claims, to the Committee on the Public Lands, and to the Committee on Accounts.”

Reserving the right to object, Mr. Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, requested an explanation of the measure from Mr. O'Connor.

Mr. O'Connor replied, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, this is an amendment of the rules⁽²³⁾ with reference to the referring of private claims bills. For many years the Committee on Foreign Affairs has been handling private claims relating to the Consular Service. Some time ago a suggestion was made that a point of order might lie against such claims. There are some on the Consent Calendar, and to obviate the possibility of a point of order being made against a long-established custom, an amendment to this rule seems necessary, and the Committee on Rules reported it out and it was thought that

23. This clause (clause 3) did not then include the Committee on Foreign Affairs [see H. Jour. 1280, 74th Cong. 1st Sess. (1935)] and thus a point of order against referral of a bill to the Committee on Foreign Affairs containing such private claims or against a report of that committee placed on the Consent Calendar, might have been sustained.

this would be the most expeditious way of disposing of it.

Shortly thereafter, the House granted unanimous consent to consider the resolution, and it was agreed to.⁽²⁴⁾

International Agreements

§ 37.6 The Committee on Foreign Affairs and not the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction of a bill to give effect to the convention between the United States and certain other countries for the regulation of whaling, concluded at Geneva, Sept. 24, 1931, and signed on the part of the United States, Mar. 31, 1932.

On Feb. 3, 1936,⁽²⁵⁾ Sam D. McReynolds, of Tennessee, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs requested unanimous consent that the bill (S. 3413), be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Noting that the bill had been originally referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, Mr. McReynolds stated that he had “discussed it with the chairman of that committee, and it is satisfac-

24. For a more recent version of the rule in question, see Rule XXI clause 4, *House Rules and Manual* §845 (1979).

25. 80 CONG. REC. 1381, 74th Cong. 2d Sess.

tory to him that it be rereferred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs."

Immediately thereafter, the House granted unanimous consent.⁽²⁶⁾

"Lend-Lease" or "Aid to Britain" Bills

§ 37.7 The House determined that the Committee on Foreign Affairs and not the Committee on Military Affairs (now the Committee on Armed Services) had jurisdiction of the so-called "Lend-Lease" or "Aid to Britain" bill, the major purpose of which was to waive certain restrictions placed upon the President under the Neutrality Act and to substitute therefor an affirmative grant of power, enabling the President to negotiate with foreign governments regarding the possible exchange of weaponry, vessels, "defense articles," and "defense information."

On Jan. 10, 1941,⁽²⁷⁾ after noting that a bill (H.R. 1776) had just been introduced to promote

26. S. 3413 was reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs on Mar. 12, 1936 (H. REPT. No. 2154).

27. 87 CONG. REC. 100, 77th Cong. 1st Sess.

the defense of the United States and for other purposes, Andrew J. May, of Kentucky, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, addressed a series of parliamentary inquiries to Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, regarding the reference of the bill and the procedure necessary to effect a rereferral. The discussion, in which Mr. Earl C. Michener, of Michigan, subsequently joined, encompassed several procedural matters, among them: the principle that a motion to rerefer is not in order until a bill has been initially referred to a committee and until the committee seeking jurisdiction has authorized its chairman to make such a motion; that the motion to rerefer is in order any time the House is in session, after approval of the Journal, until the bill is finally reported by the committee to which referred; that such a motion, when authorized by the committee seeking jurisdiction, is privileged and not debatable; and that the particular bill in question, H.R. 1776, had already been referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Following these preliminary inquiries, the measure itself was printed in the Record by unanimous consent and read as follows:⁽¹⁾

1. *Id.* at p. 103.

Be it enacted, etc., That this act may be cited as "An act to promote the defense of the United States."

Sec. 2. As used in this act—

(a) The term "defense article" means—

(1) Any weapon, munition, aircraft, vessel, or boat;

(2) Any machinery, facility, tool, material, or supply necessary for the manufacture, production, processing, repair, servicing, or operation of any article described in this subsection;

(3) Any component material or part of or equipment for any article described in this subsection;

(4) Any other commodity or article for defense.

Such term "defense article" includes any article described in this subsection: Manufactured or procured pursuant to section 3, or to which the United States or any foreign government has or hereafter acquires title, possession, or control.

(b) The term "defense information" means any plan, specification, design, prototype, or information pertaining to any defense article.

Sec. 3. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the President may, from time to time, when he deems it in the interest of national defense, authorize the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, or the head of any other department or agency of the Government—

(1) To manufacture in arsenals, factories, and shipyards under their jurisdiction, or otherwise procure, any defense article for the government of any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the United States.

(2) To sell, transfer, exchange, lease, lend, or otherwise dispose of, to any such government any defense article.

(3) To test, inspect, prove, repair, outfit, recondition, or otherwise to place in good working order any defense article for any such government.

(4) To communicate to any such government any defense information, pertaining to any defense article furnished to such government under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(5) To release for export any defense article to any such government.

(b) The terms and conditions upon which any such foreign government receives any aid authorized under subsection (a) shall be those which the President deems satisfactory, and the benefit to the United States may be payment or repayment in kind or property, or any other direct or indirect benefit which the President deems satisfactory.

Sec. 4. All contracts or agreements made for the disposition of any defense article or defense information pursuant to section 3 shall contain a clause by which the foreign government undertakes that it will not, without the consent of the President, transfer title to or possession of such defense article or defense information by gift, sale, or otherwise, or permit its use by anyone not an officer, employee, or agent of such foreign government.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, or the head of any other department or agency of the Government involved shall, when any such defense article or defense information is exported, immediately inform the department or agency designated by the President to administer

section 6 of the act of July 2, 1940 (54 Stat. 714), of the quantities, character, value, terms of disposition, and destination of the article and information so exported.

Sec. 6. (a) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated from time to time, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions and accomplish the purposes of this act.

(b) All money and all property which is converted into money received under section 3 from any government shall, with the approval of the Director of the Budget, revert to the respective appropriation or appropriations out of which funds were expended with respect to the defense article or defense information for which such consideration is received, and shall be available for expenditure for the purpose for which such expended funds were appropriated by law, during the fiscal year in which such funds are received and the ensuing fiscal year.

Sec. 7. The Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the head of the department or agency shall in all contracts or agreements for the disposition of any defense article or defense information fully protect the rights of all citizens of the United States who have patent rights in and to any such article or information which is hereby authorized to be disposed of and the payments collected for royalties on such patents shall be paid to the owners and holders of such patents.

Sec. 8. The Secretaries of War and of the Navy are hereby authorized to purchase or otherwise acquire arms, am-

munition, and implements of war produced within the jurisdiction of any country to which section 3 is applicable, whenever the President deems such purchase or acquisition to be necessary in the interests of the defense of the United States.

Sec. 9. The President may, from time to time, promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper to carry out any of the provisions of this act; and he may exercise any power or authority conferred on him by this act through such department, agency, or officer as he shall direct.

On Jan. 13, 1941,⁽²⁾ Mr. May requested unanimous consent to address the House for 10 minutes. In the course of a brief exchange with Mr. Edward E. Cox, of Georgia, following the latter's reservation of objection, Mr. May stated that he had been directed by his committee [the Committee on Military Affairs] to move that H.R. 1776 be rereferred to it.

Shortly thereafter, Speaker Rayburn recognized Mr. John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts, and the following exchange took place:

MR. MCCORMACK: Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, does the gentleman from Kentucky take the position that the Speaker made an incorrect reference of this bill to a committee?

2. 87 CONG. REC. 126, 77th Cong. 1st Sess.

MR. MAY: It is my candid judgment, based upon a careful consideration of all the precedents, a study of Cannon's Precedents and the rules as discussed by him in his book, that this bill which provides—and I quote the title—"Further to promote the defense of the United States, and for other purposes," relates to matters of national defense.

MR. McCORMACK: That, of course, has nothing to do with the reference of the bill.

MR. MAY: Just a moment. The title is followed by expressions in many sections of the bill which relate to national defense. It clearly authorizes the sale, leasing, or giving of both Army and Navy equipment. Under no conditions do I question either the motives or good faith of our most distinguished Speaker, and I am merely acting in accord with the resolution of my committee.

Following an intervening point of order, Mr. McCormack continued the exchange⁽³⁾ while still reserving objection, and inquired of Mr. May whether he would acknowledge the Committee on Naval Affairs and the Committee on Ways and Means as possessing jurisdictional rights over the bill.

Mr. May's response, in part, was, as follows:

I will admit very frankly that there are provisions in this bill that would, under certain circumstances justify the reference of the bill to any one of two or three committees, but the general rule is that when the major question

3. *Id.* at p. 127.

involved is one relating to national defense, it should be referred to the committee having jurisdiction of the major issue.

So far as we are concerned here, this can be carried on through the War and Navy Department and not through the State Department, which deals only with diplomatic matters. In the instant case the major issue is the disposition of war materials. For this reason, and for the additional reason that the bill abolishes without consideration statute after statute enacted by this Congress, ignoring them completely and putting them out of effect in order to carry out the provisions of the bill—and they all relate to national defense—I believe the bill should be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Shortly thereafter, the regular order was demanded, after which Mr. May offered the privileged motion to rerefer H.R. 1776 from the Committee on Foreign Affairs to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Following a parliamentary inquiry relative to procedures for referral,⁽⁴⁾ the Speaker put the question on the preferential [and nondebatable] motion to rerefer offered by Mr. May, and the motion was rejected.

Memorials of Sympathy From Foreign Legislative Bodies

§ 37.8 Memorials of foreign legislative bodies, paying trib-

4. *Id.* at pp. 127, 128. See also §28.3, *supra*, for discussion of procedural questions involving motion to rerefer.

ute to the memory of the late President John F. Kennedy, were referred by the Speaker to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

On Dec. 19, 1963,⁽⁵⁾ Speaker John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts, referred the memorials described above, which emanated from more than 20 foreign legislative bodies, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Pan American Day

§ 37.9 A resolution designating a day for the celebration in the House of Pan American Day was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

On Mar. 3, 1966,⁽⁶⁾ Mr. Armistead I. Selden, Jr., of Alabama, introduced the resolution (H. Res. 754), and it was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Parliamentarian's Note: Resolutions setting a date for the celebration of Pan American Day were normally submitted and called up by unanimous consent, without reference to a committee. In this case, the resolution was called up by unanimous consent,

5. 109 CONG. REC. 25251, 88th Cong. 1st Sess.

6. 112 CONG. REC. 4887, 89th Cong. 2d Sess.

thus discharging the committee. The resolution has usually been submitted and called up by the Chairman, Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs, Committee on Foreign Affairs. The House considered such resolutions annually from 1945 until 1973.

Rio Grande River Bridge Construction

§ 37.10 The Committee on Foreign Affairs and not the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has jurisdiction of a bill to extend the times for commencing and completing the construction of a free bridge across the Rio Grande River at or near Del Rio, Texas.

On Apr. 2, 1951,⁽⁷⁾ Mr. Dwight L. Rogers, of Florida, obtained unanimous consent to have the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3299), and to have it referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.⁽⁸⁾

Troop Commitments Abroad

§ 37.11 The House having adopted a resolution of in-

7. 97 CONG. REC. 3126, 82d Cong. 1st Sess.

8. H.R. 3299 was reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs on Aug. 14, 1951 (H. Rept. No. 867).

quiry directing the Secretary of State to provide information on any Presidential commitments requiring the sending of additional American troops beyond U.S. continental limits, the Secretary's reply was laid before the House, read, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs which reported out the original resolution.

On Feb. 20, 1952,⁽⁹⁾ James P. Richards, of South Carolina, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, called up a privileged resolution of inquiry (H. Res. 514) which the House adopted, as follows:⁽¹⁰⁾

Resolved, That the Secretary of State, is directed to transmit to the House of Representatives, at the earliest practicable date, full and complete information with respect to any agreements, commitments, or understandings which may have been entered into by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain in the course of their conversations during January 1952, and which might require the shipment of additional members of the Armed Forces of the United States beyond the continental limits of the United States or involve United States forces in armed conflict on foreign soil.

9. 98 CONG. REC. 1205, 82d Cong. 2d Sess.

10. *Id.* at p. 1216.

On Mar. 5, 1952,⁽¹¹⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, laid before the House the following communication (H. Doc. No. 378) from the Secretary of State, which was read, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D.C., March 4, 1952.
The Honorable SAM RAYBURN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have been directed by the President to acknowledge receipt of House Resolution 514 and to call attention to his statement of February 20, when, at his press conference, he responded to the question, "Have any commitments been made to Great Britain on sending troops anywhere?" by a categorical "No."

Sincerely yours,
DEAN ACHESON.

§ 38. Committee on Government Operations

The Committee on Government Operations came into being on July 3, 1952,⁽¹²⁾ when the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments was renamed. The latter had become a standing committee, itself, in 1927,⁽¹³⁾ at which time it assumed

11. 98 CONG. REC. 1892, 82d Cong. 2d Sess.

12. 98 CONG. REC. 9217, 82d Cong. 2d Sess.

13. 69 CONG. REC. 11, 70th Cong. 1st Sess., Dec. 5, 1927.