

Chapter CXCII.¹

ELECTION AND INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT.

1. Participation of House in inaugurations. Sections 447-453.

447. Participation of the House in the inaugural ceremonies in 1909. An instance wherein, owing to inclemency of the weather, the President elect took the oath and delivered his inaugural address in the Senate Chamber.

On March 4, 1909,² at 11 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m., in the Senate, the ambassadors and ministers of foreign countries were announced and occupied seats assigned to them on the floor of the Senate. They were followed by the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, who were escorted to seats provided for them, and last by the Members of the House of Representatives, preceded by the Speaker, accompanied by the Clerk and Sergeant at Arms. The Speaker was given a seat on the left of the Vice President, the Clerk and Sergeant at Arms occupied seats at the Secretary's desk, and the Members of the House took seats reserved for them in the body of the Chamber.

The heads of executive departments, the Chief of Staff of the Army and his aid, the Admiral of the Navy and his aid, governors of States, and other invited guests occupied designated seats on the floor.

The Vice President elect, James S. Sherman, was announced and was seated at the right of the Vice President.

The President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, and the President elect, William H. Taft, were announced and escorted to seats in the space in front of the Secretary's desk, the members of the joint committee on arrangements of the two Houses occupying seats on either side of them.

The Vice President, Charles W. Fairbanks, administered the oath to the Vice President elect, and at 12 m., declared the Senate adjourned without day.

Whereupon the Vice President, James S. Sherman,³ took the chair and called the Senate to order in the special session convened by proclamation of the President.

The Chaplain having offered prayer, the Vice President addressed the Senate. At the conclusion of his address the proclamation of the President convening the special session of the Senate was read, and the Senators elect were sworn in.

¹Supplementary to Chapter LXII.

²Second session Sixtieth Congress, Record, p. 3824.

³First session Sixty-first Congress, Senate Journal, p. 1.

Immediately thereafter the President elect was escorted to the Vice President's chair by a Member of the Senate, and the Chief Justice administered to him the oath of office.

The President delivered his inaugural address from the Vice President's desk.

The President then retired from the Chamber, followed by the guests of the Senate in the following order:

The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate and the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives.

The marshal of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice, Associate Justices, clerk, and reporter of the Supreme Court.

The ex-President of the United States, the committee of arrangements, and the President of the United States.

Ambassadors to the United States and ministers plenipotentiary.

Ex-members of the Cabinet.

The ex-President.

The Vice President and the Secretary of the Senate.

The Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Retiring Members, Members elect, and officers of the House of Representatives.

Heads of the executive departments.

Governors of States and Territories.

The Chief of Staff of the Army and his aid.

The Admiral of the Navy and his aid.

And then, at 1 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m., the Senate adjourned.

448. The inaugural ceremonies of 1913.

The inauguration ceremonies in 1913 were without incident and took place in the usual form with unimportant variations of minor character.

On March 4, 1913,¹ the Members of the House of Representatives, Diplomatic Corps, and justices of the Supreme Court appeared in the Senate in the order named. President elect Woodrow Wilson was accompanied by the retiring President, William H. Taft.

President pro tempore Jacob H. Gallinger administered the oath to Vice President elect Thomas R. Marshall and declared the Senate adjourned sine die. The Vice President² called the Senate to order and after prayer addressed the Senate.

The inaugural procession proceeded, in the usual order, to the platform on the central portico at the east front of the Capitol where the President elect took the oath of office and delivered his inaugural address.

449. When the inaugural date falls on Sunday the inauguration of the President of the United States occurs at noon, the following day.

On Sunday, March 4, 1917³ (legislative day of March 2) the Senate had been in continuous session since 10 o'clock a.m. the previous Friday. Prolonged obstruc-

¹Third session Sixty-second Congress, Record, p. 4842.

²First session Sixty-third Congress, Record, p. 1.

³Second session Sixty-fourth Congress, Record, p. 5020.

tion in the consideration of the bill (H. R. 21052) to arm merchant ships continued until the hour of 12 m. on Sunday, March 4, when the President pro tempore, interrupting debate, declared the Senate adjourned sine die.

On Monday, March 5, at 12 m.¹ the Senate was called to order by the President pro tempore.

The Members of the House of Representatives, the Diplomatic Corps, the Justices of the Supreme Court, and the Chief of Staff of the Army and Admiral of the Navy were announced and seated in customary form.

President Woodrow Wilson was escorted to the Chamber by the committee on arrangements and was seated with them and the members of his Cabinet in the area in front of the Vice President's desk.

After prayer by the Chaplain, the President pro tempore caused the proclamation of the President convening the Senate in extra session to be read and administered the oath of the Vice President elect, Thomas R. Marshall.

The Vice President addressed the Senate and administered the oath to the Senators elect.

The inaugural procession then proceeded to the platform at the east front of the Capitol in the usual order of precedence and the President elect took the oath of office and delivered his inaugural address.

450. Procedure at the inauguration of the President in 1921.

On December 13, 1920² pursuant to concurrent resolution previously adopted by the two Houses, the Speaker announced:

The Chair will announce as the House members of the inaugural committee Mr. Cannon, Mr. Reavis, and Mr. Rucker.

In the Senate the Vice President announced:

Pursuant to the provision of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 34) providing for the appointment of a committee to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President elect of the United States on the 4th day of March next, the Chair appoints Mr. Knox, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Overman members of the committee on the part of the Senate.

On March 4, 1921,³ at 11 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m., the Doorkeeper of the Senate announced the Speaker and the Members of the House of Representatives. The Speaker was escorted to a seat at the left of the Vice President, and the Members of the House occupied seats reserved for them on the left of the Vice President, in the body of the Chamber.

They were followed by the ambassadors and ministers of foreign countries, the General of the Army and his aid, the Chief of Naval Operations and his aid, the Chief Justice and the associate justices of the Supreme Court, who were in turn escorted to seats provided for them on the floor of the Senate.

The Vice President elect (Calvin Coolidge, of Massachusetts) entered the Chamber accompanied by members of the joint committee on arrangements and was conducted to a seat on the right of the Vice President.

¹First session Sixty-fifth Congress, Senate Journal, p. 1; Record, p. 1.

²Third session Sixty-sixth Congress, Record, pp. 304, 308.

³Record, p. 4532.

Several minutes before noon the Sergeant at Arms announced Warren G. Harding, of Ohio, President elect of the United States, accompanied by the chairman and members of the committee on arrangements. The President elect was seated in the area in front of the Secretary's desk with the members of the committee occupying seats on either side.

The retiring Vice President administered the oath to the Vice President elect, and then at 12 m. declared the Senate adjourned sine die.

The Vice President called the Senate to order in special session¹ and, after prayer by the Chaplain, delivered his address, at the conclusion of which the proclamation of the President convening the extra session was read and the oath of office was administered to Senators elect.

The Vice President then directed the Sergeant at Arms to execute the order of the inauguration ceremonies, and the President elect, escorted by the justices of the Supreme Court and accompanied by the joint committee, proceeded to the inaugural stand at the east front of the Capitol.

They were followed by the members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Chief of Naval Operations and his aid, the Chief of Staff of the Army and his aid, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Vice President, Sergeant at Arms and Secretary of the Senate, the Senate of the United States, the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Members of the House of Representatives, and then by other guests admitted to the floor of the Senate.

The Chief Justice administered the oath of office to the President elect.

The President delivered his inaugural address.

The inaugural party on the platform rose and remained standing while the President retired from the stand. The Senate then returned to its Chamber and resumed its session.

451. Ceremonies participated in by the House at the inauguration of the President in 1925.

Arrangements for the inauguration of the President and Vice President of the United States made by a joint committee of the two Houses.

On December 19, 1924² the House passed without amendment the following concurrent resolution of the Senate:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That a joint committee consisting of three Senators and three Representatives, to be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively, is authorized to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President elect of the United States on the 4th of March next.

The Speaker thereupon appointed the committee on the part of the House.

On March 4, 1924,³ at 11 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m., under the escort of the Doorkeeper, the Members of the House of Representatives, preceded by the Sergeant at Arms and the Clerk, and headed by the Speaker and the Speaker designate, entered the Senate Chamber. The Senators and Senators elect had been previously

¹First session Sixty-seventh Congress, Senate Journal, p. 1.

²Second session Sixty-eighth Congress, Journal, p. 836; Record, p. 5521.

³First session Sixty-ninth Congress, Record, p. 1.

seated on the east side of the Chamber, and the Speaker and the Members of the House were escorted to the seats on the west side. The Clerk and the Sergeant at Arms were seated at the Secretary's desk.

The ambassadors and ministers of foreign countries, the Members of the President's Cabinet, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Chief of Staff of the Army and their aides, and the Chief Justice and associate justices of the Supreme Court arrived in the order named and were shown to seats reserved for them.

The Vice President elect (Charles G. Dawes) entered the Chamber, escorted by members of the joint committee on arrangements for the inauguration, and was conducted to a seat at the right of the President pro tempore.

Several minutes before noon the President elect, Calvin Coolidge, escorted by the Sergeants at Arms of the Senate and the House and accompanied by the chairman and members of the committee on arrangements of the two Houses, was announced.

Those present rose to receive them and remained standing until they were seated.

The President elect was seated in the space in front of the Secretary's desk, the chairman and members of the joint committee on arrangements occupying the seats on either side.

The President pro tempore administered to the Vice President elect the oath of office prescribed by law.

And then, the hour of 12 m. having arrived, the President pro tempore declared the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Congress adjourned sine die.

Thereupon the Vice President took the chair and called the Senate to order in the extra session of the Sixty-ninth Congress.

After prayer by the Chaplain of the Senate, the Vice President addressed the Senate. The proclamation of the President convening the Senate in extra session was read, after which the oath was administered to the Senators elect.

The Vice President then directed the Sergeant at Arms to carry out the order of the inauguration ceremonies.

The President elect, preceded by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate and accompanied by the committee on arrangements, was conducted to the President's room. The Supreme Court retired from the Chamber to their robing room, and the Diplomatic Corps, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps and their aides were escorted to the Marble Room in the Capitol.

Members of the Senate, headed by the President pro tempore and the Secretary of the Senate, proceeded to the inaugural platform, on the central portico at the east front of the Capitol, followed by the Members of the House of Representatives, preceded by the Clerk and the Doorkeeper, headed by the Speaker and the Speaker designate, followed in turn by governors of States and other guests of the Senate.

These having been seated on the platform, the President elect, accompanied by the committee on arrangements, escorted by the Sergeants at Arms of the Houses, left the President's room. When the Marble Room was reached, the Diplomatic Corps, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Com-

mandant of the Marine Corps followed. At the door of the Supreme Court the Chief Justice and associate justices took places at the head of the line and proceeded to the inaugural platform.

The President elect of the United States having arrived on the platform, the oath of office was administered to him by the Chief Justice of the United States.

The President delivered his inaugural address.

And then the President, followed by the inaugural procession, left the platform in the reverse order to that in which it had arrived, the President departing to the White House and the Senate returning to its Chamber, and the ceremonies were concluded.

452. The concurrent resolution creating a joint committee authorized to arrange for the quadrennial inauguration ceremonies is considered sufficient authorization for the necessary appropriations for that purpose.—On December 14, 1928,¹ Mr. Bertrand H. Snell, of New York, in reporting from the Committee on Rules the usual joint resolution (S. J. Res. 24) providing for the appointment of the joint committee to make necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President elect on March 4, 1929, explained:

Mr. Speaker, I simply desire to state that this is the usual resolution that is passed once in four years preceding the inauguration of a new President. This resolution is considered to be an authorization for an appropriation which will be carried in the deficiency bill. I move the previous question on the resolution.

453. Arrangements for the inauguration of the President of the United States, in 1933.

The Speaker, having been elected Vice President, continued in office until the expiration of his term.

Mr. Speaker Garner, having been elected simultaneously to the Vice Presidency and to Membership in the next Congress, transmitted to the Executive of his State his resignation as a Member elect of the Seventy-third Congress.

Resolutions preliminary to the inaugural ceremonies of 1933 were passed by the House, providing for the appointment of committees on arrangements, December 8, 1932;² exempting inaugural tickets from taxation, January 8, 1933;³ quartering of troops participating in the ceremonies, January 26;⁴ granting permits for the use of public facilities, January 27;⁵ and providing for the maintenance of order, February 7.⁶

Mr. Speaker Garner, the Vice President elect, presided in the House on March 4, until adjournment sine die, at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.,⁷ and was sworn in as Vice President in the Senate Chamber at 12 o'clock noon.⁸

¹ Second session Seventieth Congress, Record, p. 607.

² Second session Seventy-second Congress, Record, p. 205.

³ Record, p. 2031.

⁴ Record, p. 2607.

⁵ Record, p. 2705.

⁶ Record, p. 3545.

⁷ Record, p. 5668.

⁸ Record, p. 5656.