

loved Speaker, the Honorable John W. McCormack, sincere wishes for a long, pleasant, and well-earned retirement.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

MR. RHODES. Mr. Speaker, it is a proud duty which I perform in offering this resolution in appreciation to our great Speaker, the Honorable John McCormack of Massachusetts.

[Mr. Rhodes continued his remarks, sharing his personal memories of the Speaker and expressing appreciation of the Speaker's record of service.]

§ 13. Steering Committee

The Republican Conference in 1919 authorized the creation of a steering committee to be nominated by the Committee on Committees and elected by the party conference.⁽¹⁸⁾ The committee created by the Republicans is now known as the Policy Committee.⁽¹⁹⁾

A Democratic Steering Committee was created in the 73d Congress to consist of 15 Members elected to represent geographical zones.⁽²⁰⁾ Cannon stated that, "the Steering Committee is not respon-

sible to the caucus, and the election of its members . . . is not subject to caucus ratification or rejection";⁽¹⁾ that, "members of the Steering Committee are directly responsible to the membership of the zone from which elected and are subject to recall at any time";⁽²⁾ and that, "the Chairman of the Steering Committee is elected by the committee and is ineligible to succeed himself."⁽³⁾

The purposes of the Steering Committee as originally created were to consult with the various geographical groups on pending legislation, to promote unity among the groups, and to advise the party leadership as to legislative scheduling and floor strategy.⁽⁴⁾

The Democratic Steering Committee was relatively inactive for many years. But changes in the committee's composition and functions were included in an addendum to the 1973 caucus rules and, more recently, the committee has assumed new importance as the

18. See 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3621.

19. The Policy Committee is discussed in § 12, *supra*.

20. See 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3622.

1. 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3622.

2. *Id.*

3. *Id.*

4. See *Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the Congress of the United States*, Congressional Quarterly Service (Washington, D.C., 1971), pp. 142, 604. See also 8 Cannon's Precedents § 3622, discussing the functions of the steering committee.

Steering and Policy Committee. The current role of the committee, including its role in the determination of standing committee assignments for party members, will be discussed more extensively in supplements to this edition. Briefly, the committee at present is composed of the party leadership in addition to those members elected on a geographical basis or appointed by the Speaker. Its main functions are to make recommendations regarding party policy, legislative priorities, and the scheduling of matters for House or caucus action.

In the 89th Congress, resolutions were adopted authorizing payments from the contingent fund of the House to be applied to salaries for certain employees of the Steering Committee⁽⁵⁾ and to expenses of the committee.⁽⁶⁾

Members of the Democratic Steering Committee from its inauguration to Mar. 21, 1945, are listed in an appendix to the *Congressional Record* of the 79th Congress. In that Congress, Mr. William M. Whittington, of Mississippi, asked and was given permission to extend his remarks in the appendix of the Record and to include therein the membership rolls of the Democratic Steering

Committee from its inauguration, in addition to a partial list of the Chairmen of the Democratic Caucus.⁽⁷⁾ The list includes the ex officio members of the committee in each of the Congresses. In the 73d Congress, the ex officio members were the Speaker, floor leader, caucus chairman, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, and the whip. Beginning with the 76th Congress, the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations were also designated as ex officio members of the Steering Committee. At present,⁽⁸⁾ ex officio members include the Speaker, the floor leader, the whip, the caucus chairman, the secretary of the caucus and the Chairman of the Congressional Campaign Committee.

Compensation for Employees

§ 13.1 The House on occasion has provided by resolution

7. The list appears in the appendix to the Record, 91 (part 10) CONG. REC. A1367, A1368, 79th Cong. 1st Sess., Mar. 21, 1945 (extension of remarks of Mr. William M. Whittington).
8. See *Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the Congress of the United States*, Congressional Quarterly Service (Washington, D.C., 1971), p. 142; and Ripley, Randall B., *Party Leaders in the House of Representatives*, The Brookings Institution (Washington, D.C., 1967), p. 47.

5. See § 13.1, *infra*.

6. See § 13.2, *infra*.

for compensation to be payable from the contingent fund of the House to employees of the Democratic Steering Committee.

On Aug. 24, 1965,⁽⁹⁾ the following resolution was adopted by the House:

H. RES. 543

Resolved, That, effective September 1, 1965, there shall be payable from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives, until otherwise provided by law, compensation at a basic rate per annum not exceeding the maximum rate authorized by the Classification Act of 1949, as amended, to one employee of each of the following:

- (1) the House Democratic Steering Committee; and
- (2) the House Republican Conference.

Later in the first session of the 89th Congress,⁽¹⁰⁾ compensation for an additional employee of the Steering Committee was authorized by the following resolution:

H. RES. 625

Resolved, That, effective November 1, 1965, there shall be payable from

9. 111 CONG. REC. 21545, 89th Cong. 1st Sess. A resolution authorizing an increase in the compensation of the positions referred to in H. Res. 543, 89th Cong. 1st Sess. (1965), was rejected in the 91st Congress. See 116 CONG. REC. 27449, 27451, 91st Cong. 2d Sess., Aug. 5, 1970.
10. 111 CONG. REC. 28563, Oct. 22, 1965.

the contingent fund of the House of Representatives, until otherwise provided by law, compensation at a basic rate not exceeding \$4,180 per annum to one additional employee of each of the following:

- (1) the House Democratic Steering Committee; and
- (2) the House Republican Conference.

Expense Allowance

§ 13.2 The House adopted a resolution providing for payment for certain expenses of the Democratic Steering Committee from the contingent fund of the House.

In the second session of the 89th Congress,⁽¹¹⁾ the following resolution was agreed to by the House:

H. RES. 661

Resolved, That, effective January 3, 1966, there shall be payable from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives, until otherwise provided by law, not to exceed \$5,000 annually for necessary expenses, other than salaries, to each of the following:

- (1) the House Democratic Steering Committee; and
- (2) the House Republican Conference.

§ 14. Patronage Committee

Formerly, the patronage of the House was distributed through a

11. 112 CONG. REC. 170, Jan. 13, 1966.