

Calls of the House; Quorums

A. CALLS OF THE HOUSE

§ 1. In General; Scope

Article I, section 5, of the Constitution,⁽¹⁾ provides that “a Majority of each [House] shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.” A quorum consists of a majority⁽²⁾ of those Members sworn and living,⁽³⁾ whose membership has not been terminated by resignation or action of the House.⁽⁴⁾

A quorum is presumed to be present unless a point of no

quorum is made.⁽⁵⁾ Although it is not the duty of the Chair to take cognizance of the absence of a quorum unless disclosed by a vote or questioned by a point of no quorum,⁽⁶⁾ failure of a quorum to vote on a roll call cannot be ignored; the Chair must announce that fact although it was not objected to from the floor.⁽⁷⁾

After the absence of a quorum has been announced, no “business” including a unanimous-consent request to withdraw the point of no quorum,⁽⁸⁾ is in order until a quorum has been established.⁽⁹⁾ Nonetheless, the motion to adjourn, the motion for a call of the House⁽¹⁰⁾ and motions incidental to a call of the House⁽¹¹⁾ are in order in the absence of a quorum. Similarly, the House may adjourn *sine die* in the absence of a quorum where both Houses

1. See *House Rules and Manual* §§ 52–57 (1979), for a discussion of earlier precedents relating to this provision.

For earlier treatment of the quorum, see 4 Hinds’ Precedents §§ 2884–2979; and 6 Cannon’s Precedents §§ 638–677; discussion of calls of the House appears in 4 Hinds’ Precedents §§ 2980–3055; and 6 Cannon’s Precedents §§ 678–707.

2. § 1.1, *infra*.

3. § 1.2, *infra*.

4. 4 Hinds’ Precedents §§ 2889, 2890; and 6 Cannon’s Precedents § 638.

5. § 1.3, *infra*.

6. 6 Cannon’s Precedents § 565.

7. 4 Hinds’ Precedents §§ 2953, 2963; and 6 Cannon’s Precedents § 624.

8. See §§ 10, 18.7, *infra*, for a discussion of the definition of “business.”

9. § 1.5, *infra*.

10. § 1.6, *infra*.

11. § 1.11, *infra*.

have adopted a concurrent resolution providing for a *sine die* adjournment on that day.⁽¹²⁾ Moreover, under the precedents, a quorum is not required for the opening prayer and Members are not recognized for such a point of order.⁽¹³⁾

In the 93d Congress, on Apr. 9, 1974, certain changes were adopted in the rules governing the time for making a point of no quorum, as well as the proper procedures relating to quorum calls. These changes will be discussed in detail in supplements to this edition as they appear. Broadly, under the new procedures, a point of no quorum may not be entertained (1) before or during the offering of prayer; (2) during the administration of the oath of office to the Speaker, Speaker pro tempore, Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner; (3) during the reception of any message from the President or the Senate; and (4) during the offering, consideration, and disposition of any motion incidental to a call of the House. The *House Rules and Manual*, published each Congress, can serve as a reference for changes of the rules relating to the establishment of a quorum which have oc-

12. § 1.13, *infra*; see also § 8, *infra*, for a discussion of the motion to adjourn.

13. § 1.12, *infra*.

curred following the publication date of this volume.

In addition, since the beginning of the 93d Congress, once the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole determines during a quorum call that a quorum is present, he may, under Rule XXIII clause 2(a), declare that a quorum is constituted, whereupon proceedings under the call are considered vacated.

Similarly, after the presence of a quorum is ascertained, a further point of no quorum may not be made or entertained during reading of the Journal, pending a report from the Committee of the Whole to the House, during special orders, or any other time until additional business intervenes. A quorum is not required in the Committee of the Whole for agreement to a motion that the Committee rise.

In the 94th and 95th Congresses, other changes were adopted in the rules regarding the necessity for and establishment of a quorum. Under clause 6(e)(1) of Rule XV, the Speaker may not entertain a point of order of no quorum when he has not put a question to a vote in the House, but under clause 6(e)(2) the Speaker may at any time in his discretion recognize a Member of his choice to move a call of the

House. Clause 6(e)(2) was amended in the 96th Congress to dispense with further proceedings under any call of the House when a quorum appears unless the Speaker in his discretion recognizes for a motion.⁽¹⁴⁾ Changes since the 93d Congress in Rule XXIII clause 2 relating to quorum calls in Committee of the Whole are discussed in detail in § 7, *infra*.

Collateral Reference

Constitution of the United States of America; Analysis and Interpretation, S. Doc. No. 92-82, 112, 113, 92d Cong. 2d Sess.

Majority as Quorum

§ 1.1 A majority of the House constitutes a quorum to do business.

On Feb. 18, 1958,⁽¹⁵⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, after counting 217 Members, stated that a quorum was present.

MR. [MICHAEL J.] KIRWAN [of Ohio]: Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the motion to recommit.

The previous question was ordered.

THE SPEAKER: The question is on the motion to recommit.

14. See Rule XV clause 6(e) (1) and (2), *House Rules and Manual* § 774c (1979).

15. 104 CONG. REC. 2317, 85th Cong. 2d Sess.

MR. [BEN F.] JENSEN [of Iowa]: Mr. Speaker, on that I ask for the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were refused.

The question was taken, and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

MR. JENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present, and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

THE SPEAKER: The Chair will count. [After counting.] Two hundred and seventeen Members are present, a quorum.⁽¹⁶⁾

The question is on the passage of the bill.

§ 1.2 A quorum of the House consists of a majority of those Members sworn and living; the Speaker's vote may be counted to make a quorum.

On Oct. 20, 1966,⁽¹⁷⁾ the Speaker voted on a conference report in order to make a quorum.

THE SPEAKER:⁽¹⁸⁾ The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the "ayes" appeared to have it.

MR. [GLENN] CUNNINGHAM [of Nebraska]: Mr. Speaker, I object to the

16. At this time 431 Members were chosen, sworn, and living; consequently 216 would have constituted the necessary quorum.

17. 112 CONG. REC. 28254, 28255, 89th Cong. 2d Sess.

18. John W. McCormack (Mass.).

vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

THE SPEAKER: Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Doorkeeper will close the doors, the Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members, and the Clerk will call the roll.

The question was taken; and there were—yeas 171, nays 46, not voting [216], as follows: . . .

THE SPEAKER: The Clerk will call my name.

The Clerk called the name of Mr. McCormack, and he answered “yea.”

So the conference report was agreed to.

Presumption of Quorum

§ 1.3 In the House of Representatives a quorum is presumed always to be present unless a point of no quorum is made.

On July 18, 1949,⁽¹⁹⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, made a statement regarding presumption of a quorum.

MR. [CLARK E.] HOFFMAN of Michigan: Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman will state it.

MR. HOFFMAN of Michigan: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding this is Consent Calendar day. In view of the recent Supreme Court decision in the

19. 95 CONG. REC. 9654, 81st Cong. 1st Sess.

Christoffel case,⁽²⁰⁾ which held affirmatively that unless a quorum is present the committees of the House and the House are not legal tribunals, would the House now be competent to consider bills on the Consent Calendar, it being apparent a quorum is not present?

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman knows, of course, that unless a point of no quorum is made, it is presumed that a quorum is always present.

Proceeding Requiring a Quorum

§ 1.4 Ascertaining the presence of a quorum is the first order of business when the House convenes following a sine die adjournment.

On Jan. 7, 1964,⁽²¹⁾ Speaker John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts, ascertained the presence of a quorum immediately after the prayer.

This being the day fixed by Public Law 247, 88th Congress, enacted pursuant to the 20th amendment to the Constitution, for the meeting of the 2d session of the 88th Congress, the Members of the House of Representatives of the 88th Congress met in their Hall, and at 12 o'clock noon were called to order by the Speaker, the Honorable John W. McCormack, a Representative from the State of Massachusetts.

20. *Christoffel v United States*, 328 U.S. 84 (1949). See § 17, *infra*, for a discussion of this case.

21. 110 CONG. REC. 4, 5, 88th Cong. 2d Sess.

The Chaplain, Rev. Bernard Braskamp, D.D., offered the . . . prayer. . . .

CALL OF THE HOUSE

THE SPEAKER: The Clerk will call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum. . . .

On this roll call 342 Members have answered to their names. A quorum is present.

§ 1.5 The Chair refuses to recognize Members for business after an absence of a quorum has been announced; no business is in order until a quorum has been established.

On June 8, 1960,⁽¹⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, refused to entertain business until a quorum was established.

CALL OF THE HOUSE

MR. [CLARE E.] HOFFMAN of Michigan: Mr. Speaker, I make the point of order that there is no quorum. I am telling you now, I told you I was coming here.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman from Michigan has already made a point of no quorum.

MR. HOFFMAN of Michigan: I will renew it, if necessary.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman has made the point of order of no quorum, and he should not try to speak in that time.

1. 106 CONG. REC. 12142, 86th Cong. 2d Sess.

The Chair will count. [After counting.] A quorum is not present.

MR. [RICHARD W.] BOLLING [of Missouri]: Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

THE SPEAKER: The Clerk will call the roll.

MR. HOFFMAN OF MICHIGAN: Mr. Speaker—

THE SPEAKER: The Chair cannot recognize the gentleman because a point of order of no quorum has been made, and the Chair announced that there was no quorum.

The Clerk will call the roll.

§ 1.6 A quorum not being present, no motion is in order but for a call of the House or a motion to adjourn; at this stage a motion to adjourn has precedence over the motion for a call of the House.

On Apr. 24, 1956,⁽²⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, presented the question on a motion to adjourn before addressing himself to a prior motion for a call of the House.

§ 1.7 Where the Speaker after a count announces that no quorum is present, all proceedings and debate are sus-

2. 102 CONG. REC. 6891, 84th Cong. 2d Sess.

For proceedings of the House on this date, see § 8.14, *infra*.

ended until a quorum is secured or the House adjourns.

On Mar. 25, 1937,⁽³⁾ Speaker William B. Bankhead, of Alabama, made a statement regarding the effect of a quorum.

MR. [SCOTT W.] LUCAS [of Illinois]: Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

MR. [RALPH E.] CHURCH [of Illinois]: When I finish my statement, please.

MR. [JOSEPH W.] MARTIN [Jr.] of Massachusetts: I demand the gentleman be protected in his rights.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman has declined to yield.

MR. [FRANK E.] HOOK [of Michigan]: Mr. Speaker, I make the point of no quorum.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman from Michigan makes the point there is no quorum present. The Chair will count. [After counting.] One hundred and ten Members are present, not a quorum.

MR. [SAM] RAYBURN [of Texas]: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

MR. [ADOLPH J.] SABATH [of Illinois]: Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

MR. RAYBURN: No business can be conducted in the absence of a quorum.

MR. SABATH: I should like to answer these despicable statements.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman from Texas moves the House do now adjourn.

MR. CHURCH: I will yield to the gentleman. I want to be fair.

THE SPEAKER: No business of any character can be transacted during the

absence of a quorum. It raises a constitutional question. A quorum is not present. The gentleman from Texas has moved that the House do now adjourn, which is not a debatable motion.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes had it.

MR. [HAMILTON] FISH [Jr., of New York]: Mr. Speaker, I ask for the yeas and nays.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman from New York demands the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were refused.

So the motion to adjourn was agreed to.

§ 1.8 A quorum is required to agree to a resolution to adjourn sine die.

On Oct. 18, 1972,⁽⁴⁾ House Concurrent Resolution 726 was passed.

PROVISION FOR SINE DIE
ADJOURNMENT

MR. [THOMAS P.] O'NEILL [of Massachusetts]: Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 726) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 726

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall adjourn on Wednesday, October 18, 1972, and that when they adjourn on said day, they stand adjourned sine die.

3. 81 CONG. REC. 2793, 75th Cong. 1st Sess.

4. 118 CONG. REC. 37061, 37062, 92d Cong. 2d Sess.

The Speaker:⁽⁵⁾ The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

MR. [JAMES G.] O'HARA [of Michigan]: Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

THE SPEAKER: Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members, and the Clerk will call the roll.

The question was taken; and there were yeas 240, nays 21, not voting 170, as follows: . . .

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

§ 1.9 Where the Chair after counting announces that a quorum is not present, a Member may not even by unanimous consent withdraw his point of no quorum to permit the House to continue with its business without first having obtained a quorum.

On Dec. 18, 1937,⁽⁶⁾ Speaker William B. Bankhead, of Alabama, made a ruling regarding withdrawal of a point of no quorum.

MR. [LOIS C.] RABAUT [of Michigan]: Mr. Speaker, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

5. Carl Albert (Okla.).

6. 82 CONG. REC. 1846, 75th Cong. 2d Sess.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman from Michigan makes the point of order that there is not a quorum present. The Chair will count. [After counting.] One hundred and fifty-six Members are present, not a quorum.

MR. RABAUT: Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw the motion.

MR. [BERTRAND H.] SNEEL [of New York]: Mr. Speaker, a point of order. The Speaker has announced that a quorum is not present. The gentleman from Michigan cannot withdraw the point of order. The Speaker has announced that there is no quorum present. Business cannot be conducted after the Speaker has announced there is no quorum present.

THE SPEAKER: The Chair will hold that a point of order having been made that there was no quorum present, and the Chair having counted and announced that there was no quorum present, a constitutional question is raised. No quorum is present, as was announced by the Chair.

MR. [HENRY B.] STEAGALL [of Alabama]: Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

§ 1.10 Any action by the House on a Senate amendment requires a quorum if a Member raises that question.

On Mar. 30, 1944,⁽⁷⁾ Speaker pro tempore John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts, made a statement regarding the need for a quorum for consideration of a Senate amendment.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: The Chair lays before the House, House

7. 90 CONG. REC. 3318, 78th Cong. 2d Sess.

Concurrent Resolution No. 75, with a Senate amendment, which the Clerk will report.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment: On page 2, line 3, strike out "Thursday, March 30" and insert "Saturday, April 1."

Amend the title so as to read: "Concurrent resolution providing for the adjournment of Congress from Saturday, April 1, 1944, to Wednesday, April 12, 1944."

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

MR. [CLARK E.] HOFFMAN [of Michigan]: Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I make a parliamentary inquiry.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: The gentleman will state it.

MR. HOFFMAN: What is the procedure?

MR. [ROBERT] RAMSPECK [of Georgia]: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House concur in the Senate amendment.

MR. HOFFMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I object.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Is the gentleman propounding a parliamentary inquiry?

MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: The gentleman will state it.

MR. HOFFMAN: What is the procedure on this resolution?

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: It is a privileged resolution, and the procedure would be for some Member—and the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. Ramspeck] has done so—to make a motion that the House concur in the Senate amendment.

MR. HOFFMAN: And then a vote is taken on the motion?

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: That is correct.

MR. HOFFMAN: Does that require a quorum?

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Any action by the House requires a quorum if the one who takes such step raises that question.

MR. [JOHN E.] RANKIN [of Mississippi]: Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: The gentleman will state it.

MR. RANKIN: As I understand the situation, whether there is a quorum present or not, unless this amendment is agreed to, the resolution does not become final until this amendment is disposed of. That is correct, is it not?

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: The gentleman is correct.

MR. RANKIN: And therefore we would not be in a position to recess for the time mentioned until this amendment is disposed of one way or the other.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: The understanding of the Chair is the same as that of the gentleman from Mississippi.

The gentleman from Georgia moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment.

The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Georgia.

MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. Speaker, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: The Chair will count.

MR. HOFFMAN: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the point of no quorum for the time being.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE: Without objection, further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 75) will be withdrawn.

There was no objection.

Proceedings Permitted in the Absence of a Quorum

§ 1.11 A quorum is not required on motions incidental to a call of the House.

On Oct. 8, 1940,⁽⁸⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, made a ruling regarding the need for a quorum on a motion to dispense with further proceedings, which is a motion incidental to a call of the House.

THE SPEAKER: On this roll call 318 Members have answered to their names, a quorum.

MR. [JERE] COOPER [of Tennessee]: Mr. Speaker, I move to dispense with further proceedings under the call.

THE SPEAKER: Without objection it is so ordered.

MR. [JOHN] TABER [of New York]: Mr. Speaker, I object.

8. 86 CONG. REC. 13403, 76th Cong. 3d Sess. In an isolated instance, objections to the lack of a quorum to vote on motions incidental to a call of the House were improperly entertained. See the proceedings at 108 CONG. REC. 9940-42, 87th Cong. 2d Sess., Sept. 19, 1962. On that occasion, failure of a quorum to vote on motions to dispense with further proceedings under a call of the House resulted in automatic yea and nay votes on the motions.

MR. COOPER: I moved it, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Tennessee.

The question was taken; and, on a division (demanded by Mr. Taber), there were—ayes 99 and noes 75.

MR. TABER: Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that there is not a quorum present.

THE SPEAKER: A quorum is not required to dispense with further proceedings under the call.

§ 1.12 A quorum is not required for prayer by the Chaplain and the Speaker does not recognize Members for such a point of order.

On Mar. 19, 1941,⁽⁹⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, made a statement regarding recognition of Members for a point of no quorum during prayer.

MR. [ROBERT F.] RICH [of Pennsylvania]: Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman will state it.

MR. RICH: Mr. Speaker, when I was seeking recognition from the Speaker before the Chaplain offered prayer, I felt that there would be a call of the House and I thought it would be a good thing for all the Members to be here for once to hear the Chaplain offer prayer. What does the Speaker think about that? Would it be proper

9. 87 CONG. REC. 2351, 2352, 77th Cong. 1st Sess.

procedure for a Member to make the point of order that a quorum is not present before the Chaplain offers prayer?

THE SPEAKER: As the Chair understands, it has been held many times that the prayer is not such business of the House that a quorum is required.

§ 1.13 The House, pursuant to a resolution agreed to when a quorum was present, may adjourn sine die in the absence of a quorum.

On Oct. 18, 1972,⁽¹⁰⁾ the House adjourned *sine die* in the absence of a quorum following agreement by a quorum to a resolution authorizing such adjournment.⁽¹¹⁾

CALL OF THE HOUSE

MR. [JOHN T.] MYERS [of Indiana]: Mr. Speaker, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

THE SPEAKER:⁽¹²⁾ The Chair will count.

One hundred twelve Members are present, not a quorum.

MR. [THOMAS P.] O'NEILL [Jr., of Massachusetts]: Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

MR. [WILBUR D.] MILLS of Arkansas: Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

10. 118 CONG. REC. 37199, 37200, 92d Cong. 2d Sess.

11. See § 1.8, *supra*, for agreement to the resolution permitting adjournment *sine die*.

12. Carl Albert (Okla.).

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman will state it.

MR. MILLS of Arkansas: Mr. Speaker, will the Speaker entertain a unanimous-consent request that the call of the roll be vacated.

THE SPEAKER: The Speaker does not have that authority under the Constitution.

If there are any Members in the Chamber who have not answered and the Speaker can identify them, he will have them recorded. The Speaker does have that authority, but he does not know of any such Members. The Clerk called the roll, and the following Members failed to answer to their names:

. . .

[276 Members failed to answer.]

MR. O'NEILL: Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman will state it.

MR. O'NEILL: Mr. Speaker, am I correct in assuming that when the House adjourns tonight it adjourns to meet on January 3, 1973, at 12 o'clock?

THE SPEAKER: That is correct. . . .

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

MR. O'NEILL: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

THE SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of House Concurrent Resolution 726, the Chair declares the second session of the 92d Congress adjourned sine die.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), Wednesday, October 18, 1972, the House adjourned sine die.

Parliamentarian's Note: This final quorum call originally omit-

ted from the daily edition of the Record, was inserted in the Journal and in the permanent Record at the request of the Parliamentarian based upon the rationale stated in §2.22, *infra*, showing that an adjournment of the House in the absence of a quorum does not justify deletion of those proceedings from the Journal and Record.

§2. Calls Ordered on Motions; Automatic Calls

The rules of the House authorize two calls of the House, the call on motion and the automatic call, to ascertain the presence of a quorum. Prior to the 95th Congress, the call ordered on motion⁽¹³⁾ was in order in the absence of a quorum whether or not a pending question was being put to a vote. Under this former procedure, a Member rose and made the point of order that a quorum was not present. The Speaker, after noting the point of order, counted the House and announced whether a quorum was present. If not, any Member could move a call of the House. Under current procedure (beginning in the 95th Congress) a point of order of no

13. Rule XV clause 2(a), *House Rules and Manual* §768 (1979).

quorum may not be entertained unless the pending question has been put to a vote, but the Speaker may, in his discretion, recognize for a motion for a call of the House at any time.⁽¹⁴⁾ Fifteen Members including the Speaker voting in the affirmative are authorized to compel the attendance of absentees.⁽¹⁵⁾ But because a call must be ordered by a vote of a majority of those present, a minority of 15 favoring a call on such vote will not suffice.⁽¹⁾

If a majority votes to compel attendance absentees are notified. Warrants may be issued by order of a majority of those present, and those for whom no sufficient excuse is made may be arrested by officers appointed by the Sergeant at Arms; absentees' attendance is secured and retained until they are discharged by the House. Members who appear voluntarily are immediately admitted to the Hall of the House and report their names to the Clerk to be entered upon the Journal as present. Until the 96th Congress, the appearance of a sufficient number to

14. Rule XV clause 6(e), *House Rules and Manual* §774(c) (1979).

15. Rule XV clause 2(a), *House Rules and Manual* §768 (1979).

1. See annotation to Rule XV clause 2(a), *House Rules and Manual* §769 (1979); and 4 Hinds' Precedents §2984