AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

RECOGNITION

The power of recognition is within the discretion of the Chair, and under the precedents of the Senate, there is no appeal from the Chair's decision to recognize a particular Senator. Under the rule, the Chair is required to recognize "the Senator who shall first address him." This gives the Chair discretion when several Senators simultaneously address the Chair, although the precedents of the Senate do give preferential recognition to the Majority and Minority Leaders and persons managing the pending business under these circumstances.

When a unanimous consent agreement is reached to recognize a Senator at a certain hour or to limit debate on a bill and place the control of that time in the hands of certain Senators, that does restrict the power of recognition by the Presiding Officer.

The Chair should recognize a Senator who seeks recognition if no other Senator has the floor even if there is an order of the Senate to execute, since the Senator could seek unanimous consent to proceed notwithstanding that previous order. However, if a Senator so recognized neglects to request unanimous consent to proceed, or if consent is denied, the Chair will execute the previous order, and that Senator will have no right to the floor.

Under the normal operations of the Senate, Senators may not make motions or propose business of any type until they have been recognized by the Chair.

Rule XIX, Paragraph 1(a)

[Recognition of Senator by Chair]

When a Senator desires to speak, he shall rise and address the Presiding Officer, and shall not proceed until he is recognized, and the Presiding Officer shall recognize the Senator who shall first address him. No Senator shall interrupt another Senator in debate without his consent, and to obtain such consent he shall first address the Presiding Officer, and no Senator shall speak more than twice upon any one question in debate on the same legislative day without leave of the Senate, which shall be determined without debate.

Amendments, a Senator Must Have Been Recognized, To Offer

See "Floor Relinquished on Calling Up an Amendment," pp. 40–41; "Recognition To Offer," pp. 45–46; "Quorum, Withdrawal of Quorum Call," pp. 1076–1077.

Chair Recognizes:

See also "Unanimous Consent Suspends Rule on Recognition," pp. 1102–1103; "Desk—Speak From," pp. 737–738; "Leaders—Preferential Recognition," pp. 1098–1099.

The power of recognition resides in the Presiding Officer when a Senator yields the floor.[1]

The rule provides that "The Presiding Officer shall recognize the Senator who shall first address him." This, however, places some discretion in the Chair as to whom he shall recognize.[2] The Presiding Officer must recognize the Senator who first seeks recognition, and there is no custom requiring alternate recognition between the majority and minority,[3] although on one occasion the Chair honored an informal arrangement to this effect.[4]

A Senator has no right or may not yield the floor to another Senator, since the power of recognition resides in the Chair;[5] the Chair does the recognizing or has the prerogative to recognize Senators in the course of Senate proceedings unless, of course, the Senate is operating under a unanimous consent agreement specifying who has control of the time for debate or who shall be recognized.[6] During debate on a matter on which time is controlled, a Senator who controls time may yield time to another, but such yielding does not constitute recognition of that Senator but indicates to the Presiding Officer which Senators are eligible to be recognized next.[7] Under a unanimous consent agreement which limits and assigns control of time, no Senator is entitled to be recognized and engage in debate unless yielded to by one of the Senators controlling time. The Chair has corrected itself when, under such an agreement, a Senator other than the Senator in control of time was recognized and proceeded to debate.[8]

The power of recognition resides in the Presiding Officer when a Senator yields the floor.[9]

---

[1] Jan. 19, 1938, 75–3, *Record*, p. 752; *See also* Oct. 6, 1983, 98–1, *Record*, p. 27486.
[2] *See* July 19, 1983, 98–1, *Record*, p. 19761; July 9, 1969, 91–1, *Record*, pp. 18856–57; Jan. 31, 1963, 88–1, *Record*, p. 1459.
[3] Apr. 9, 1987, 100–1, *Record*, p. S 4928.
[4] *See* June 25, 1987, 100–1, *Record*, pp. S 8665–66.
[5] Aug. 18, 1982, 97–2, *Record*, p. 21852.
[6] Oct. 7, 1975, 94–1, *Record*, p. 31981; *see also* Aug. 23, 1978, 95–2, *Record*, p. 27375.
[7] Apr. 12, 1988, 100–2, *Record*, pp. S 3759–60.
[8] Sept. 22, 1987, 100–1, *Record*, p. S 12436.
[9] Sept. 15, 1981, 97–1, *Record*, p. 20554.

Since Senators in debate should address one another through the Chair, the acknowledgement of a Senator by the Chair does not necessarily confer recognition on that Senator.[10]

The Chair should recognize the Senator who first addresses him,[11] but the question of recognition is one within the province of the Chair,[12] against which no point of order may be made nor from which an appeal will lie.[13]

The Presiding Officer is required to recognize the Senator who in his discretion first sought recognition. However, in the event that several Senators seek recognition simultaneously, priority of recognition shall be accorded the Majority Leader and Minority Leader, the majority manager, and the minority manager, in that order.[14]

The Presiding Officer is required to recognize the Senator who first seeks recognition, but may exercise judgment as to which Senator sought recognition first, and where several Senators not entitled to priority of recognition seek the floor at the same time, the Presiding Officer may recognize whichever of those Senators he or she wishes to recognize.[15]

The Presiding Officer recognizes the first Senator who he sees address the Chair, regardless of whether that Senator has spoken recently and other Senators have not.[16]

When a Senator desires to speak, he shall rise and address the Presiding Officer, and shall not proceed until he is recognized,[17] and the Presiding Officer shall recognize the Senator who first addresses him,[18] even over the chairman of the subcommittee handling the bill under consideration if he were not the first to request recognition,[19] or over the name of Senator on a list at the desk if he were not the first to address the Chair.[20]

---

[10] Sept. 25, 1984, 98-2, *Record*, pp. 26667-68; July 20, 1983, 98-1, *Record*, p. 19891.

[11] June 14, 1938, 75-3, *Record*, p. 9207; Mar. 15, 1960, 86-2, *Record*, pp. 5559, 5570-71, 5578.

[12] Mar. 2, 1927, 69-2, *Journal*, p. 265, *Record*. p. 5349; Apr. 2, 1949, 81-1, *Record*, pp. 3771-72; Jan. 29, 1915, 63-3, *Record*, p. 2576; Mar. 21, 1939, 76-1, *Record*, pp. 3050-51; Jan. 19, 1938, 75-1, *Record*, p. 752; *see also* Aug. 20, 1940, 76-3, *Record*, p. 10592.

[13] Sept. 28, 1977, 95-1, *Record*, p. 31255; Sept. 30, 1976, 94-2, *Record*, p. 33887; Jan. 29, 1915, 63-3, *Record*, p. 2576; Feb. 11, 1915, 63-3, *Record*, p. 3578; *see also* Sept. 21, 1922, 67-2, *Journal*, p. 482, *Record*, pp. 13075-79.

[14] July 19, 1983, 98-1, *Record*, p. 19761.

[15] Sept. 19, 1983, 98-1, *Record*, p. 24552.

[16] Feb. 23, 1985, 99-1, *Record*, p. 3279.

[17] June 9, 1952, 82-2, *Record*, p. 6823; *see* Oct. 17, 1967, 90-1, *Record*, p. 29194.

[18] Rule XIX.

[19] July 30, 1958, 85-2, *Record*, pp. 15579-80.

[20] Aug. 6, 1959, 86-1, *Record*, p. 15282; July 26, 1957, 85-1, *Record*, pp. 12828-30.

When a Senator calls up an amendment he thereby loses the floor, and he does not gain the floor or the right to the floor by asking unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.[21] A Senator who obtains unanimous consent to dispense with the further reading of another Senator's amendment is not thereby automatically recognized, and the Chair may recognize whichever Senator first seeks recognition.[22]

A Senator is not entitled to the floor until he is recognized by the Chair,[23] and technically he loses the floor when he makes a motion or offers an amendment. *See* "Floor Relinquished on Calling Up an Amendment," pp. 40–41. If a motion is put to a vote, the mover loses the floor, and it is then the duty of the Presiding Officer to recognize the Senator who first rises and addresses him.[24]

It is the duty of the Presiding Officer to recognize the Senator who first addresses him, but when several Senators are demanding recognition, the Chair has the privilege of choosing the one to recognize.[25]

In the ordinary course of the consideration of a bill or other matter, the Senator who rises and first addresses the Chair is entitled to recognition, and a Senator managing the bill who may be sitting in the majority leader's seat, but did not address the Chair, would have no preferential status as to recognition.[26]

Every Senator, in due time, has a right to recognition before the Senate acts on an issue unless by unanimous consent a limitation of debate is entered into which precludes him from such right.[27]

In 1937, the Vice President announced a policy of giving priority of recognition to the Majority and Minority Leaders when they were on their feet seeking recognition. The action of the Majority Leader in yielding, after being recognized, to a Senator to move to proceed to the consideration of a bill having been challenged as not being in conformity with the rule, the Vice President held that the Majority Leader could not farm out his time.[28]

---

[21] July 19, 1983, 98–1, *Record*, p. 19769.
[22] May 13, 1988, 100–2, *Record*, pp. S 5776–78.
[23] Feb. 17, 1941, 77–1. *Record*, p. 1052.
[24] *See* May 1, 1928, 70–1, *Record*, p. 7305.
[25] Aug. 11, 1937, 75–1, *Record*, p. 8694.
[26] *See* Mar. 31, 1964, 88–2, *Record*, pp. 6607–08, 6613.
[27] July 9, 1969, 91–1, *Record*, pp. 18856–57.
[28] Aug. 13, 1937, 75–1, *Record*, pp. 8839–40; *see also* Feb. 21, 1938, 75–3, *Record*, p. 2202.

When a Senator has made a motion, he is not automatically entitled to the floor; the Chair has discretion to recognize that Senator or another Senator,[29] and another Senator addressing the Chair at that time may be recognized.[30]

When a Senator who has the floor ceases to address the Chair, the Chair may recognize another Senator.[31]

When a Senator desires to address a question to another Senator or desires to interrupt him, he should rise,[32] and to obtain consent of the speaker, he shall address the Chair,[33] and get permission through the Chair.[34]

A Senator who does not rise when he addresses the Chair is not entitled to recognition.[35]

The Presiding Officer is not bound by a colloquy between Senators as to the right of a Senator to the floor on a subsequent day to conclude a speech.[36]

A Senator who yields the floor in debate has no right to resume the floor on a subsequent day when business has intervened and another Senator has been recognized.[37]

A Senator cannot hold the floor while an amendment is being acted upon, and the Chair must recognize the Senator who first addresses him.[38]

In 1958, the Presiding Officer held that a Senator, to whom a Senator had yielded temporarily and meanwhile had left the floor, was not entitled to the floor in his own right, and the Chair recognized another Senator.[39]

A Senator who has made a motion for a special order, which has been stated to the Senate by the Presiding Officer, cannot hold the floor to prevent the making of a preferential motion.[40]

A Senator offering a series of amendments to a bill cannot hold the floor after the Senate agrees to an amendment where another Senator addresses the Chair and is recognized.[41]

---

[29] Sept. 21, 1950, 81-2, *Record*, pp. 15345-46; Dec. 18, 1950, 81-2, *Record*, p. 16705.
[30] Jan. 29, 1915, 63-3, *Record*, p. 2576.
[31] Dec. 3, 1985, 99-1, *Record*, pp. 33871-72.
[32] *See* Apr. 6, 1948, 80-2, *Record*, p. 4111.
[33] July 26, 1947, 80-1, *Record*, p. 10371.
[34] June 9, 1914, 63-2, *Record*, pp. 10044-45.
[35] Aug. 17, 1911, 62-1, *Journal*, p. 183, *Record*, pp. 4064-67.
[36] Nov. 22, 1921, 67-1, *Journal*, p. 348, *Record*, pp. 8090-91.
[37] May 21, 1934, 73-2, *Record*, p. 9128.
[38] June 14, 1938, 75-3, *Record*, p. 9207.
[39] July 24, 1958, 85-2, *Record*, p. 14950.
[40] Dec. 17, 1908, 60-2, *Record*, p. 370.
[41] Mar. 30, 1950, 81-2, *Record*, pp. 4371-72.

Where several or a series of amendments being offered by a Senator have been agreed to, another Senator who first addresses the Chair after an amendment has been acted upon is entitled to recognition.[42]

Where an amendment was offered by a Senator and the question stated by the Chair on agreeing to it, another Senator addressing the Chair may be recognized.[43] A Senator yielding to another to make a motion to recess, or if he makes such a motion himself, would have no preference in recognition.[44]

A point of order that a Senator was not in his seat and should not have been accorded recognition over a Senator addressing the Chair from his seat having been overruled, an appeal from the ruling was laid on the table.[45] *See* "Desk—Speak From," pp. 737–738.

The Presiding Officer, in 1933 and again in 1935, with reference to recognition of Senators, announced a policy that the Senator in charge of legislation pending before the Senate should be given priority in recognition.[46] However, a Senator who controls time on a measure may yield some of it to another Senator but the first Senator does not thereby gain the floor and when the second Senator completes his remarks the Presiding Officer may recognize any Senator who has such time to control.[47]

The Chair may recognize another Senator when a Senator (1) offers an amendment; [48] (2) makes a motion to reconsider a matter; [49] (3) takes an appeal (may recognize another to lay the appeal on the table); [50] (4) or makes a motion.[51]

When the consideration of a bill is interrupted by the laying before the Senate at a specified hour of another bill pursuant to a unanimous consent agreement, a Senator having the floor at the time is not deprived of that right, and may continue with his address.[52]

---

[42] Aug. 3, 1937, 75-1, *Record*, pp. 8099–8100.
[43] *See* Feb. 7, 1944, 78-1, *Record*, pp. 1280–81.
[44] *See* June 12, 1935, 74-1, *Record*, p. 9127.
[45] May 30, 1908, 60-1, *Record*, p. 7260; *see also* June 17, 1958, 85-2, *Record*, pp. 11437–38.
[46] May 25, 1933, 73-1, *Record*, p. 4148; Mar. 14, 1935, 74-1, *Record*, p. 3609.
[47] Aug. 11, 1986, 99-2, *Record*, p. 20511.
[48] Aug. 3, 1937, 75-1, *Record*, pp. 8099–8100.
[49] *See* Sept. 25, 1940, 76-3, *Record*, p. 12587.
[50] Nov. 17, 1942, 77-2, *Record*, pp. 8897–98.
[51] Feb. 27, 1922, 67-2, *Record*, pp. 3104–05; *see also* Feb. 24, 1947, 80-1, *Record*, p. 1353.
[52] Feb. 24, 1927, 69-2, *Journal*, p. 216, *Record*, pp. 4656–57.

The proponent of a motion to reconsider is not entitled to the right of prior recognition for the purpose of withdrawing the motion.[53]

In 1885, the Presiding Officer, announcing the hour for a recess under a previous order had arrived, declared the Senate in recess and refused to recognize a Senator to make a motion to reconsider the order.[54]

On one occasion in 1922, the Presiding Officer, after the Senator having the floor had yielded to various Senators for interruptions and discussions, recognized in his own right a Senator desiring to interrupt further the Senator in possession of the floor.[55]

The Chair has corrected itself on occasion as to whether the floor was available for Senators to seek recognition, after it had recognized a second Senator, upon the assumption that the first Senator had given up the floor,[56] and indicated that the second Senator did not thereby gain a prior right of recognition when the floor next became available, since the Chair would recognize the first Senator seeking recognition at that time.[57]

Consider, Motion To:

For a Senator to offer a motion to consider, he must first be recognized. *See* "Recognition Before Offering Motion To Consider," p. 676.

Debate of Question of Recognition and an Appeal Therefrom:

See "Recognition, Debate of," p. 769.

Hold Floor, Senator Cannot Offer Amendments or Motions and:

See "Chair Recognizes," pp. 1092–1097.

---

[53] Mar. 21, 1939, 76-1, *Record*, pp. 3050–51.
[54] Mar. 2, 1885, 48-2, *Record*, pp. 2350, 2360.
[55] Aug. 1, 1922, 67-2, *Record*, pp. 10871–72.
[56] June 20, 1984, 98-2, *Record*, p. 17449; Feb. 23, 1985, 99-1, *Record*, p. 3282; May 1, 1985, 99-1, *Record*, p. 10065.
[57] Feb. 23, 1985, 99-1, *Record*, p. 3282.

Interruption of Senator in Possession of Floor, Out of Order:

The floor cannot be taken away from a Senator who has been recognized. *See* "Interruption of Senator Who Has the Floor Is Not Allowed—Except by His Consent," pp. 749–753.

Leaders—Preferential Recognition:

Under the traditions and practices of the Senate, the leadership is given preferential recognition when they seek the floor simultaneously with other Senators.[58] Leaders and managers of a bill are given preferential recognition as compared to other Senators generally.[59]

The Presiding Officer is required to recognize the Senator who in his discretion first sought recognition. However, in the event that several Senators seek recognition simultaneously, priority of recognition shall be accorded the Majority Leader and Minority Leader, the majority manager and the minority manager, in that order.[60]

A Senator loses the floor upon offering an amendment, and must seek recognition after the amendment is read, and in the event that the sponsor of the amendment and a member of the leadership should seek recognition simultaneously, the latter will receive priority recognition.[61]

The Majority Leader may designate the manager of a matter under consideration on the floor; and the Leaders and managers of a bill are accorded preferential recognition over other Senators if recognition is sought simultaneously. Otherwise, the Chair will recognize the Senator who first came to the attention of the Chair.[62]

When the manager of a measure seeks recognition at the same time as another Senator (other than one of the leaders) the Chair should recognize the manager.[63]

It was the Chair's opinion that, in accordance with the practice of the Senate, where several Senators, one of

---

[58] Feb. 24, 1972, 92–2, *Record*, pp. 5477–80.

[59] *See* July 9, 1969, 91–1, *Record*, pp. 18856–57; Jan. 31, 1977, 95–1, *Record*, pp. 2686–87.

[60] July 19, 1983, 98–1, *Record*, p. 19761.

[61] Dec. 11, 1987, 100–1, *Record*, p. S 17941.

[62] Aug. 18, 1982, 97–2, *Record*, p. 21835.

[63] March 14, 1983, 98–1, *Record*, pp. 4408, 4482–83, 5117.

whom was the majority leader, addressed the Chair, the majority leader should be recognized.[64]

Preference of recognition during routine business is given as a matter of courtesy, under a long-established custom, to the majority leader or, in his absence, to the Senator acting in that capacity, and to the minority leader.[65]

In recent years, the Senate has been adopting orders by unanimous consent to authorize the recognition of the leaders from 3 to 10 minutes immediately following the prayer and approval of the *Journal*.[66]

List of Speakers:

See "List of Speakers," p. 757.

Morning Business—Policy of Recognition:

Vice President Johnson made a statement concerning his policy of recognition of Senators during the consideration of morning business,[67] which was to recognize Senators from the two sides (Democrats and Republicans) alternately, provided Senators addressed the Chair under the rule.[68]

Motion, Recognition To Make:

A Senator must stand and address the Chair if that Senator wishes to make a motion, and such Senator must do so before the Chair takes an action rendering such motion untimely.[69]

Notice of Intention To Speak—Not Recognition:

A notice to address the Senate or to make a motion at a stated time does not entitle a Senator to recognition at that time or give him any precedence under the rule; recognition is a prerogative of the Chair,[70] and it is within

---

[64] *See* Mar. 31, 1964, 88-2, *Record*, pp. 6607-08, 6613; Oct. 11, 1978, 95-2, *Record*, p. 35565.

[65] *See* Feb. 7, 1963, 88-1, *Record*, pp. 2091-94; Feb. 14, 1963, 88-1, *Record*, pp. 2354-56; July, 12, 1957, 85-1, *Record*, p. 11454.

[66] *See* Jan. 3, 1973, 93-1, *Record*, p. 10; *See also* proceedings for Feb. 22, 1979, when such an order was adopted for the daily recognition of the leadership.

[67] *See* Feb. 5, 1962, 87-2, *Record*, p. 1632.

[68] *Ibid.*

[69] Sept. 19, 1986, 99-2, *Record*, p. 24907.

[70] Jan. 23, 1928, 70-1, *Journal*, p. 124, *Record*, pp. 1859, 1863, 1864-65; *see also* Mar. 28, 1914, 63-2, *Record*, p. 5660; Feb. 26, 1903, 57-2, *Record*, p. 2692.

his province to recognize another Senator addressing him.[71]

The Senator who gave the notice should rise at the specified hour, the Senator previously addressing the Senate having yielded the floor, and address the Presiding Officer in order to obtain recognition; [72] however, a Senator who has given such notice is usually recognized as a matter of courtesy,[73] based on custom only, since there is no provision in the rule entitling him to recognition as a matter of right.[74]

If another Senator first rises and addresses the Chair, it is the duty of the Presiding Officer, under the rule, to recognize such Senator when he insists upon his right to the floor.[75]

The practice of granting a request of a Senator to be recognized at the conclusion of another Senator's speech is not favored.[76]

Offering of Amendments or Motions Only After Recognition:

See under various subjects, particularly "Chair Recognizes," pp. 1092–1097; "Floor Relinquished on Calling Up an Amendment," pp. 40–41; "Recognition To Offer a Motion," pp. 935–936, "Recognition Before Moving To Adjourn," p. 7; "Recognition Before Offering Motion To Consider," p. 676; "Recognition To Offer," pp. 45–46; "When Motion To Table Is Not in Order," pp. 1286–1288.

Offering of a Motion:

See "Recognition To Offer a Motion," pp. 935–936.

Points of Order, Recognition for:

See "Points of Order," pp. 987–996.

Preferential Recognition:

See "Leaders—Preferential Recognition," pp. 1098–1099.

---

[71] Aug. 24, 1893, 53–1, *Record*, p. 781.

[72] Jan. 23, 1928, 70–1, *Journal*, p. 124, *Record*, pp. 1859, 1863–65.

[73] Jan. 23, 1928, 70–1, *Journal*, p. 124, *Record*, pp. 1859, 1863–65; *see also* June 21, 1913, 63–1, *Record*, p. 2123; Mar. 28, 1914, 63–2, *Record*, p. 5660.

[74] *See* Jan. 12, 1916, 64–1, *Record*, p. 946; Feb. 26, 1903, 57–2, *Record*, p. 2692.

[75] Jan. 23, 1928, 70–1, *Journal*, p. 124, *Record*, pp. 1859, 1863–65.

[76] Mar. 31, 1949, 81–1, *Record*, pp. 3547–48.

Privileged Business—Must First Be Recognized:

A motion to consider even privileged business is not in order unless the Senator making the motion has the floor.[77]

Quorum, Recognition After Call:

A Senator who obtains unanimous consent to terminate a quorum call is not thereby automatically recognized since during a quorum call no one has the floor,[78] and the Chair may recognize whichever Senator first seeks recognition.[79]

Recognition Necessary Before Offering Motions or Amendments:

See "Offering of Amendments or Motions Only After Recognition," p. 1100.

Senator Loses Floor:

See "Senator Loses Floor," pp. 775–778.

Senator Offering Motion or Amendment Loses Floor:

See "Chair Recognizes," pp. 1092–1097.

Speeches in Same Day, Recognized To Offer Motion:

See "Speeches Allowed in Same Legislative Day," pp. 781–785.

Unanimous Consent Procedure and Recognition:

By unanimous consent a Senator may yield for the presentation or consideration of a conference report and will not be considered as having lost the floor.[80]

Where a request for unanimous consent to consider a bill[81] or to fix a day for a final vote on a bill[82] was announced as having been agreed to, the Presiding Offi-

---

[77] June 17, 1965, 89-1, *Record*, p. 14053.
[78] Apr. 11, 1984, 98-2, *Record*, p. 8689.
[79] Apr. 18, 1983, 98-1, *Record*, p. 8814.
[80] Oct. 1, 1940, 76-3, *Record*, p. 12926.
[81] Apr. 7, 1924, 68-1, *Record*, pp. 5733-34.
[82] Jan. 10 and 11, 1913, 62-3, *Record*, pp. 1324-29, 1354-56, 1388-95.

cer will subsequently sustain an objection to such an agreement if made by a Senator who was addressing the Chair or seeking recognition prior to his announcement of the agreement, on the ground that unanimous consent had not in fact been given.

Where the Presiding Officer inquired if there were objection to a unanimous consent request and an objection was made which he did not hear and he proceeded to announce agreement to the request, he withdrew such statement upon attention being called to the objection in fact; [83] again, when a Senator stated that he had reserved the right to object to such a request, the Chair withdrew his announcement with respect to the agreement.[84]

In the case of the third reading of a bill, further amendments will be in order if a Senator was trying to get recognition at the time the third reading was had.[85]

A Senator who, under a unanimous consent agreement yields the floor for a recess with an understanding that it shall have terminated his first speech on a pending question, is not entitled to recognition when the Senate again meets; a Senator who is therefore recognized may make a motion to lay on the table.[86]

Unanimous Consent Suspends Rule on Recognition:

The giving of unanimous consent for a Senator to address the Senate at a particular time or hour operates as a suspension of the rules relating to recognition by the Chair.[87]

Under a unanimous consent agreement, any Senator may be given the right to address the Senate at a specified time; [88] on a given day; [89] at a particular hour; [90] to continue on the succeeding day; [91] at a certain time for a

---

[83] July 19, 1946, 79-2, *Record*, p. 9404.
[84] July 21, 1950, 81-2, *Record*, p. 10796.
[85] June 14, 1943, 78-1, *Record*, p. 5824.
[86] Sept. 20 and 21, 1950, 81-2, *Record*, p. 15345.
[87] Mar. 27, 1950, 81-2, *Record*, pp. 4116-17; *see also* July 13, 1949, 81-1, *Record*, p. 9381.
[88] Jan. 30, 1948, 80-2, *Record*, pp. 778-79; Mar. 27, 1950, 81-2, *Record*, pp. 4116-17; Feb. 2, 1948, 80-2, *Record*, pp. 860-61: May 14, 1962, 87-2, *Record*, pp. 8285, 8298.
[89] Mar. 14, 1924, 68-1, *Journal*, p. 208, *Record*, p. 4130.
[90] Apr. 16, 1940, 76-3, *Record*, p. 4575.
[91] June 3, 1940, 76-3, *Record*, p. 7382; Nov. 13, 1942, 77-2, *Record*, p. 8837; June 1, 1943, 78-1, *Record*, p. 5123; June 20, 1944, 78-2, *Record*, p. 6282; June 19, 1944, 78-2, *Record*, p. 6184; May 11, 1944, 78-2, *Record*, p. 4322; May 9, 1944, 78-2, *Record*, p. 4189; Oct. 27, 1943, 78-1, *Record*, p. 8804; July 3, 1943, 78-1, *Record*, p. 7113.

specific period;[92] for delivery of speeches on future dates;[93] to resume speech when Senate convened on the following day;[94] to resume speech on the next day after the close of the routine morning business;[95] or to be recognized following action on a pending motion, for the purpose of making a motion to proceed to the consideration of a bill.[96]

Where a Senator was granted unanimous consent to address the Senate at a certain hour, but was absent at that time, the Vice President held he could be recognized at any time after his appearance in the Senate Chamber,[97] but at that point of time he had lost his right to the floor.[98]

Under a unanimous consent agreement giving certain Senators the control of time for debate for a stipulated period of time, the Chair is restrained from recognizing anyone not yielded to by the Senators in control of that time.[99]

In the event a speech is continued over from one day until the next by unanimous consent, it counts as only one speech, although the Senate recessed in the meantime, since the rule on recognition and number of speeches may thus be waived.[100]

Voice Vote:

Prior to the announcement of the result of a *viva voce* vote, a Senator is entitled to recognition to address the Senate.[101]

A Senator who is attempting to obtain recognition while the Presiding Officer is putting the question is entitled to recognition.[102]

---

[92] Mar. 14, 1956, 84-2, *Record*, p. 4682.
[93] Mar. 27, 1950, 81-2, *Record*, pp. 4116-18.
[94] Jan. 25, 1938, 75-3, *Journal*, p. 102; Mar. 13, 1940, 76-3, *Record*, p. 2804; Nov. 13, 1942, 77-2, *Record*, pp. 8836-37; Feb. 27, 1925, 68-2, *Record*, p. 4831: *see also* Oct. 9, 1939, 76-2, *Record*, p. 207.
[95] Apr. 28, 1908, 60-1, *Record*, p. 5340.
[96] Feb. 21, 1923, 67-4, *Journal*, p. 180, *Record*, p. 4194.
[97] Mar. 30, 1950, 81-2, *Record*, pp. 4370-71.
[98] Nov. 11, 1954, 83-2, *Record*, p. 15959.
[99] Feb. 27, 1948, 80-2, *Record*, p. 1837; *see also* Apr. 6, 1939, 76-1, *Record*, pp. 3910-11.
[100] July 13, 1949, 81-1, *Record*, p. 9381.
[101] *See* July 7, 1932, 72-1, *Record*, p. 14733.
[102] Nov. 23, 1985, 99-1, *Record*, pp. 33365-66.

Yeas and Nays:

When the roll has been ordered by the Presiding Officer to be called, a Senator addressing the Chair prior to a response thereto is entitled to recognition,[103] and also if a response has been made.[104]

A Senator who was addressing the Chair at the time he was putting a question for a vote is entitled to recognition.[105] In the case of a *viva voce* vote, a division will be granted if a Senator was asking for recognition for that purpose simultaneously with the announcement of the result; [106] and a demand for the yeas and nays is in order if a Senator was seeking recognition to ask for a rollcall when the result of a division vote was announced.[107]

The announcement of the results of a rollcall vote will be vacated where a Senator was attempting to get recognition for the purpose of voting at the time the result of the vote was announced by the Presiding Officer.[108]

Yield Floor to Another:

See also "Chair Recognizes," pp. 1092–1097.

A Senator has no right to yield the floor to another Senator, since the power of recognition resides in the Chair.[109]

A Senator who had the floor and yielded by unanimous consent for the posing of a lengthy unanimous consent request on condition that he retain the floor upon its completion, should seek recognition at that time to assert his right to the floor, or the Presiding Officer may recognize another Senator.[110]

---

[103] May 11, 1894, 53-2, *Record*, p. 4605; May 10, 1933, 73-1, *Record*, pp. 3137–38; Mar. 15, 1920, 66-2, *Record*, p. 4320; Apr. 2, 1952, 82-2, *Record*, pp. 3367–70; Apr. 21, 1949, 81-1, *Record*, p. 4850; Feb. 24, 1948, 80-2, *Record*, p. 1598; Nov. 30, 1945, 79-1, *Record*, p. 11238; July 17, 1935, 74-1, *Record*, p. 11297; Dec. 16, 1924, 68-2, *Record*, p. 647; Nov. 29, 1922, 67-3, *Record*, p. 396; July 1, 1921, 67-1, *Record*, p. 3297; May 2, 1916, 64-1, *Record*, p. 7243; *see also* Dec. 4, 1945, 79-1, *Record*, p. 11406.

[104] June 11, 1909, 61-1, *Record*, p. 3129; June 17, 1890, 51-1, *Record*, p. 6171; Apr. 5, 1935, 74-1, *Record*, p. 5116; July 24, 1947, 80-1, *Record*, p. 9975; Mar. 21, 1947, 80-1, *Record*, p. 2368; May 14, 1946, 79-2, *Record*, p. 4995; Sept. 28, 1945, 79-1, *Record*, p. 9152; June 29, 1943, 78-1, *Record*, pp. 6736–37; Jan. 28, 1942, 77-2, *Record*, pp. 770–75; Mar. 21, 1939, 76-1, *Record*, p. 3049; Apr. 2, 1930, 71-2, *Record*, p. 6351; June 29, 1926, 69-1, *Record*, pp. 12205–06; *see also* Mar. 24, 1930, 71-2, *Record*, pp. 5972–73; *see* decisions to contrary, May 30, 1908, 60-1, *Record*, pp. 7259–60.

[105] June 27, 1947, 80-1, *Record*, p. 7802.

[106] Jan. 16, 1942, 77-2, *Record*, pp. 424.

[107] Jan. 18, 1944, 78-2, *Record*, pp. 321–22.

[108] Sep. 27, 1951, 82-1, *Record*, pp. 12210–11.

[109] Oct. 6, 1983, 98-1, *Record*, p. 27486; Aug. 18, 1982, 97-2, *Record*, p. 21852.

[110] Aug. 9, 1986, 99-2, *Record*, pp. 20243–44.

One Senator may not yield the floor to another Senator, and in so doing loses the floor, and the Presiding Officer may then recognize another Senator.[111]

[111] June 20, 1984, 98-2, *Record*, p. 17490.