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DAILY SESSIONS

At the beginning of each Congress, the Senate adopts a resolution which provides "That the hour of daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered." This resolution is not an amendment to the standing rules but merely a standing order of the Senate and therefore may be waived by leave of the Senate in adjourning or recessing to a different hour on the next day it meets. If this resolution were an amendment to the standing rules, such rule would have to be suspended in order for a Senator to move to adjourn or recess until a different hour. Since a motion to suspend any standing rule is not in order "except on one day's notice in writing" or by unanimous consent, and since such motion requires a two-thirds vote for its adoption, it could be very difficult for the Senate to adjourn or recess to a time different from that set out in the resolution were its provisions contained in a Standing Rule.

It is quite common for the Senate to meet at an hour different from that prescribed by the resolution, under an order of the Senate, either by unanimous consent or on motion. Unless it has been shown that a quorum is not present, a motion is in order to adjourn to a time different from that set out in the resolution. A motion to recess, however, may only be made consistent with the standing order or pursuant to a unanimous consent order setting a different time for convening.

Hour of Daily Meetings:

Because the Senate is a continuing body, it is not required to readopt any resolution affecting its procedures unless that resolution contained an expiration date. Therefore, if the Senate has adopted a resolution (with no expiration date) that provided for the daily convening of the Senate at 12 o'clock meridian, such resolution would remain in effect until repealed or superceded. This is the case at the beginning of the second session of a Congress,[1] but could also occur at the beginning of the first session of a Congress. However, it is customary at the beginning of a Congress for the Senate to adopt a resolution fixing the daily hour of convening at 12 o'clock meridian.[2]

At the beginning of the second session of the 62d Congress, the hour of daily meeting of the Senate was fixed at

[1] Jan. 23, 1984, 98–2, *Record*, p. 3.
[2] *See for example*, S. Res. 3, Jan. 3, 1979, 96–1, *Record*, p. 8; and S. Res. 13, Jan. 6, 1987, 100–1, *Record*, p. 199.

2 o'clock p.m.[3] This was superceded on May 8, 1912, when the Senate adopted the customary resolution providing that until otherwise ordered the hour of daily meeting of the Senate would be 12 o'clock meridian.[4]

On July 11, 1956, the Senate adopted an order that until the end of that session the Senate would convene at 10:30 a.m. daily.[5]

A point of order made that the Senate had no authority to meet at 12 noon daylight saving time without a change in its hour of meeting was overruled by the President pro tempore.[6]

A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate, not being a matter covered by the standing rules, is open to amendment fixing the hour of daily adjournment.[7] However, such a resolution is not subject to amendment by a provision fixing an hour for a final vote on a bill.[8]

Length of Daily Sessions Fixed:

The Senate in the closing days of the first session of the 71st Congress adopted an order providing that each day the Senate recess from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and remain in session no later than 10:30 p.m.[9]

DAY

"Day" as Defined for Consideration of Appropriations Bill:

"Day," under the provision of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (now Rule XVII, paragraph 5) requiring committee hearings and reports on all general appropriation bills to be available for at least three calendar days to Members of the House in which reported, "is figured on the basis of three calendar days" and not on the basis of

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[3] Dec. 4, 1911, 62-2, *Journal*, p. 4, *Record*, p. 2.
[4] May 8, 1912, 62-2, *Journal*, p. 331, *Record*, p. 6056.
[5] July 11, 1956, 84-2, *Record*, p. 12245.
[6] Apr. 30, 1948, 80-2, *Record*, pp. 5167-68.
[7] Aug. 3, 1888, 50-1, *Record*, p. 7210.
[8] Dec. 2, 1913, 63-2, *Record*, pp. 35-37.
[9] Nov. 14, 1929, 71-1, *Journal*, p. 203, *Record*, p. 5552.