AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
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DECISIONS OF THE CHAIR

Decisions of the Chair are subject to appeal. *See* "Appeals," pp. 145–149.

DECORUM

See also "Galleries," pp. 850–853; "Presiding Officer," pp. 1025–1033.

Under Rule XIX, as amended in 1914, the duty of enforcing order in the Chamber and the galleries, was imposed upon the Presiding Officer, on his own initiative.[1]

The Chair is charged with the responsibility to keep order in the Senate.[2]

The Chair has the right to order the Chamber cleared of all unauthorized persons and to direct the Sergeant at Arms to carry out such an order so as to maintain decorum in the Senate; [3] under the rules he has authority to keep decorum in the Senate Chamber [4] and he has that responsibility.[5]

Under the rules and precedents, the Chair is required to keep order and decorum during a roll call vote.[6]

The Presiding Officer, under the precedents of the Senate, at his discretion, has the right to order from the Chamber unauthorized personnel to assure the maintenance of order in the Chamber; [7] and he has assumed that authority by clearing the Chamber of persons not there on business [8] or engaged in the performance of their duties; [9] the Chair has taken the initiative to call the staff to order, threatening to have them leave the Chamber

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[1] *See* "Galleries," pp. 850–853; and proceedings for July 30, 1955, 84–1, *Record*, p. 12252; Dec. 8, 1967, 90–1; *Record*, p. 35602; Sept. 29, 1970, 91–2, *Record*, p. 34033; Dec. 3, 1970, 91–2, *Record*, p. 39799; Oct. 3, 1978, 95–2, *Record*, p. 33167; Dec. 9, 1970, 91–2, *Record*, p. 40664; Dec. 19, 1970, 91–2, *Record*, p. 42712; *see also* Senate proceedings of Dec. 2, 1969.

[2] Oct. 3, 1978, 95–2, *Record*, p. 33175.

[3] May 21, 1968, 91–2, *Record*, pp. 14157, 14169–70; Dec. 4, 1967, 90–1, *Record*, p. 34979; Dec. 2, 1969, 91–1, *Record*, pp. 36444, 36446; Dec. 6, 1969, 91–1, *Record*, p. 37511; Dec. 10, 1969, 91–1, *Record*, pp. 38265, 38285, 38291; Dec. 17, 1969, 91–1, *Record*, pp. 39546, 39583; Sept. 11, 1967, 90–1, *Record*, p. 25004.

[4] Aug. 6, 1969, 91–1, *Record*, p. 22462.

[5] Dec. 1, 1969, 91–1, *Record*, p. 36229; July 9, 1965, 89–1, *Record*, pp. 16100, 16115–16.

[6] May 21, 1971, 92–1, *Record*, pp. 16442–44.

[7] *See* Aug. 12, 1970, 91–2, *Record*, p. 28456.

[8] July 9, 1965, 89–1, *Record*, pp. 16100, 16115–16.

[9] June 9, 1964, 88–2, *Record*, p. 13056.

unless they were actually discharging their assigned duties.[10]

The Presiding Officer, to keep decorum, has a right to direct the attachés to remove themselves from the Chamber as well as to request the Senators to take their seats, etc.[11]

In 1968, by motion, the Senate Chamber was cleared of all unauthorized personnel prior to the vote on cloture on the Civil Rights bill and on the third vote on cloture on that bill, this was done by unanimous consent.[12]

The Chair under the rules has authority to direct the Sergeant at Arms to maintain order in the galleries and in the corridors just outside the Senate floor so that the Senate may conduct its business.[13]

DEPARTMENTAL INQUIRIES

Various resolutions "requesting" the heads of departments to transmit to the Senate certain information have been amended before they were adopted, to read: "direct" instead of "request." [1] In 1884, when the change was made, the President pro tempore stated that the "resolution will be modified to read 'directed,' according to the customary course of the Senate." [2]

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[10] Dec. 16, 1970, 91-2, *Record*, pp. 41747-49.

[11] Sept. 14, 1966, 89-2, *Record*, p. 22669; July 12, 1965, 89-1, *Record*, p. 16466.

[12] Feb. 20 and 21, 1968, 90-2, *Record*, pp. 3425, 3805; Mar. 1, 1968, 90-2, *Record*, p. 4842.

[13] June 27, 1972, 92-2, *Record*, pp. 22696-97.

[1] Feb. 9, 1886, 49-1, *Record*, p. 1234; Mar. 30, 1886, 49-1, *Record*, p. 2901; Dec. 13, 1890, 51-2, *Record*, p. 405; May 8, 1900, 56-1, *Record*, p. 5264; Jan. 28, 1899, 55-3, *Record*, p. 1204.

[2] Jan. 29, 1884, 48-1, *Record*, p. 714.