

## COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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Mr. FAZIO of California (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

## ELECTION OF MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer an additional privileged resolution (H. Res. 14) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 14

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committees:

Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Bernard Sanders of Vermont.

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Bernard Sanders of Vermont.

Mr. FAZIO of California (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to enunciate an essential rule of decorum.

It is an essential rule of decorum in debate that Members should refrain from references in debate to the conduct of other Members where such conduct is not the question actually pending before the House by way of a report from the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct or by way of any question of the privileges of the House. The principle is documented on pages 168 and 226 of the House Rules and Manual and reflects the consistent rulings of the Chair in prior Congresses and applies to one-minute and special-order speeches.

Neither the filing of a complaint before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, nor the conduct of investigations in prior Congresses, nor the publication in another forum of charges that are personally critical of another Member, justify references to such charges on the floor of the House. This includes references to the motivations of Members who file complaints and to Members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Clause 1 of rule XIV is a prohibition against engaging in personality in debate. It derives from article I, section 5 of the Constitution, which authorizes each House to make its own rules and to punish its Members for disorderly behavior and has been part of the rules of the House in some relevant form

since 1789. This rule supersedes any claim of a Member to be free from questioning in any other place.

On January 27, 1909, the House adopted a report that stated the following, which is recorded in Cannon's Precedents, volume 8, at section 2497:

"It is \* \* \* the duty of the House to require its Members in speech or debate to preserve that proper restraint which will permit the House to conduct its business in an orderly manner and without unnecessarily and unduly exciting animosity among its Members."

This report was in response to improper references in debate to the President, but clearly reiterated a principle that all occupants of the Chair in prior Congresses, both Republican and Democratic, have held to be equally applicable to Members' remarks in debate toward each other.

The Chair asks and expects the cooperation of all Members in maintaining a level of decorum that properly dignifies the proceedings of the House and respects proper rulings of the Chair.

## PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Is it the Speaker's contention that he is stating what has been the rules of the House for many years?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The purpose of reading this is that we have adopted the rules, and this follows the precedents that have been set previously by previous Congresses, both Democrat and Republican, and the Chair wanted to reiterate it for all Members, particularly new Members.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, further inquiry. Does it require a Member to rise on the floor to ask for the enforcement of the rule, or is that at the discretion of the Speaker or his designee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Either the Chair or a Member may initiate points of order.

Mr. FAZIO of California. So if it is not the position of a Member who perhaps hears a rule being violated and brings it to the Speaker's attention, the Speaker would be in a position to enforce it from the Chair. Would the Speaker therefore be required to do it under all circumstances and show no discretion?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair normally uses its initiative to enforce the rule with respect to references to the President and Members of the Senate.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Members of the House, I infer, would need to have the rule applied to them by an objection arising from among the membership?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That has generally been the practice of the Chair.

Mr. FAZIO of California. I appreciate that.