

## Chapter CCXVI.<sup>1</sup>

1. Presentation by Members and Speaker. Sections 1024, 1025.
  2. Forms of petitions and memorials. Section 1026.
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**1024. While it is the practice to print memorials from State legislatures in the Senate proceedings, it is not the custom in the House, and such memorials are presented by filing with the Clerk, and are noted by title in the Record and the Journal.**

**State memorials and petitions may be printed in full in the Record of the House proceedings only by leave of the House as extension of remarks.**

On April 24, 1913,<sup>2</sup> Mr. John E. Raker, of California, asked unanimous consent to have printed in the Record a memorial from the Legislature of the State of California relating to citrus fruits of that State.

Mr. James R. Mann, of Illinois, reserved the right to object, and said:

Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I would like to get the attitude of the House on the question of printing memorials of legislatures in the Record. It is the practice to print these in the Senate. I notice nearly every day in the Record gentlemen drop in the basket a number of memorials or resolutions of legislatures. If it is the intention to allow one gentleman the privilege of having printed in the Record upon presentation in the House resolutions adopted by a legislature, I submit the same privilege should be extended to every other gentleman of the House. A number of new Members have already been to me at different times in the session and asked whether it was the practice and custom of the House to ask unanimous consent to print these resolutions in the Record. I have stated to those gentlemen it was not the custom of the House to do that.

The Speaker<sup>3</sup> acquiesced, and submitted a request by Mr. Raker that he be permitted to extend his remarks in the Record on the subject indicated.

**1025. The presentation of memorials addressed to the Speaker is within the discretion of the Chair.**

On March 8, 1918,<sup>4</sup> the Speaker laid before the House a memorial from one David L. Baumgarten, Sr., claiming election as Representative from the second congressional district of Ohio.

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<sup>1</sup> Supplementary to Chapter XC.

<sup>2</sup> First session Sixty-third Congress, Record, p. 391.

<sup>3</sup> Champ Clark, of Missouri, Speaker.

<sup>4</sup> Second session Sixty-fifth Congress, Record, p. 3236.

A question being raised as to its reference, Mr. William H. Stafford, of Wisconsin, as a parliamentary inquiry, asked if the memorial carried with it the right of reference.

The Speaker<sup>1</sup> held that presentation and reference were within the discretion of the Speaker.

**1026. In briefing petitions for the Record and the Journal, the full list of petitioners is not given, and Members indorse on the back, or on slips attached, the name of the first petitioner only or the locality from which received.**

**Blanks for briefing petitions for the Record and the Journal may be obtained from the Clerk at the desk.**

On June 4, 1914,<sup>2</sup> Mr. Frank B. Willis, of Ohio, submitted the following parliamentary inquiry:

Mr. Speaker, I notice, in examining the Record, that differences seem to obtain in the practice of different Members in the way in which they present petitions and have them printed in the Record. All Members, of course, receive petitions signed by a large number of people, and I notice that some Members present them in a particular form, simply giving the name of the person who heads the list of the petitioners and giving the subject about which the petition is presented, and stating generally the number of other people who sign the petition, while other Members have printed in the Record the names of all of the signers of the petition. I noticed in the Record the other day where some gentleman presented a petition from certain persons, giving the list of names a column long. If every other Member of the House did the same thing and printed the names of all of his constituents, as he might like to do, there would not be anything in the Record except names. For example, in the last Congress I presented a petition with nearly 2,000 names on it; this, if printed in full, would have filled many pages of the Record. However, in that instance I followed my usual practice in presenting petitions and gave only the name of the person heading the petition, the number of signers, and the substance of the petition. I desire to inquire of the Speaker what the proper practice is in that particular.

The Speaker<sup>1</sup> held that it was not within the privilege of Members to dictate the form in which statements of petitions appear in the Record and Journal except by courtesy of the clerk having jurisdiction, and that it was impracticable in any event to print names of all signers of petitions; that the proper practice was to indorse on the back of a petition or on a slip attached thereto "Petitions from John Doe and others" or "Petitions from Kokomo, Keokuk, or Kalamazoo," as the case might be.

Blanks for use in briefing petitions and memorials for the Record and the Journal are kept at the desk for the convenience of Members and may be secured from the Clerk.

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<sup>1</sup> Champ Clark, of Missouri, Speaker.

<sup>2</sup> Second session Sixty-third Congress, Record, p. 9789.