

MR. SNYDER: Mr. Speaker, I had so many of these bills sent to my office, and with my secretarial help we wrote those words on that pink slip and pasted the slip on the bill. That is how that happens to be there. I sent copies of these bills with the slip on them to those interested and sent some of them to the desk back here, to be handed out upon request. It is altogether fitting and proper that I should do so.

THE SPEAKER: The Chair knows of no rule or authority for inserting a statement like that to which the gentleman has called attention on a bill, and the Chair instructs the pages of the House not to distribute any more bills carrying this sort of inscription to Members on the floor of the House.

### *Controlling Use of the Hall*

#### **§ 7.16 It is considered within the authority of the Speaker to rule that Members may not use the Chamber of the House to entertain groups of people.**

On Feb. 14, 1955,<sup>(9)</sup> Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, made the following statement:

THE SPEAKER: The Chair desires to make a statement on the use of the Hall of the House of Representatives.

A great many Members have asked the Parliamentarian and the present occupant of the chair about the use of

9. 101 CONG. REC. 1512, 84th Cong. 1st Sess.

the Hall of the House of Representatives. At any time in the future when any Member desires to entertain a group except Members of the House of Representatives it will be held that the caucus room is open for that purpose, but not the Hall of the House of Representatives.<sup>(10)</sup>

#### **§ 8. Preserving Order in the House Galleries**

The Speaker's jurisdiction, duties, and powers to preserve order in the House galleries are derived from the House rules and precedents. This section gives examples of both.<sup>(11)</sup>

Under House rules the Speaker has control of the order and decorum of the House galleries,<sup>(12)</sup> the allocation of space in and the issuance of passes to the galleries,<sup>(13)</sup> and the regulation of the press galleries.<sup>(14)</sup>

The Speaker has ordered an offending visitor out of the House

10. As to the Hall of the House, see Ch. 4, *supra*.
11. See Ch. 4, *supra*, for fuller treatment of the Speaker's control of the House galleries.
12. Rule I clause 2, *House Rules and Manual* § 622 (1973).
13. Rule XXXIII, *House Rules and Manual* § 922 (1973).
14. Rule XXIV clauses 2 and 3, *House Rules and Manual* §§ 930 and 930a (1973).

galleries<sup>(15)</sup> and has had all of the galleries cleared.<sup>(16)</sup> The Speaker has prescribed the manner of obtaining admission to the galleries<sup>(17)</sup> and has admonished visitors about improper demonstrations.<sup>(18)</sup>

The Speaker has also directed the press gallery to report to him, after an infraction of regulations, what remedial measures it would take to prevent future infractions.<sup>(19)</sup>

### *Controlling Admission to Gallery*

**§ 8.1 It is considered within the authority of the Speaker to regulate the manner by which guests may be permitted to enter the House gallery.**

On Feb. 23, 1942,<sup>(20)</sup> Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, spoke concerning his responsibility for the protection of the Members of the House:

THE SPEAKER: One of the responsibilities of the Speakership is the pro-

15. See §8.4, *infra*.

16. See §§8.2, 8.5, *infra*.

17. See §8.1, *infra*.

18. See §8.3, *infra*.

19. See §8.6, *infra*.

20. 88 CONG. REC. 1524, 77th Cong. 2d Sess.

tection of the Members and the places in which they work. This responsibility, of course, is a little more anxious one right now than in ordinary times, and anything that is done or any regulation that is issued is issued after the best and most competent advice the Speaker is able to get.

Some time ago cards were issued and no one was allowed to come into the gallery without one. These cards have been outstanding for some time, and I am sorry to say they have been widely distributed, many of them mailed to distant points in the country. The Chair and those who advise him have decided that it is best to revoke all outstanding cards of admission to the galleries. New cards have been printed and will be distributed to the Members today and tomorrow, as the cards to the gallery outstanding will not be honored after Wednesday morning. . . .

Another thing that those who advise me think is highly advisable is that the people entering any of the galleries, except the Members' gallery, submit themselves to search. This is thought wise and judicious by men who will be in the Capitol and who will be competent for the work.

I hope this may not seem too irksome to some of our people who may come to Washington. I am willing to take this responsibility for the reason that if a mishap occurs around the Capitol somebody has got to take the responsibility, and I am willing to share my part of it. So I hope the cards that will be issued in lieu of those outstanding may be handed in Washington to visitors and constituents of yours and not be mailed around the country.

**§ 8.2 It is considered within the authority of the Speaker not to permit visitors in the House galleries under certain circumstances.**

On May 10, 1972,<sup>(1)</sup> Speaker Carl Albert, of Oklahoma, made the following announcement:

THE SPEAKER: The Chair desires to make a statement.

The Chair has received intelligence from the police force and other responsible authorities that there will be disturbances in the gallery today. On the basis of this information and their recommendation the Chair has ordered that the galleries be closed to the public for the time being.

***Controlling Visitor Behavior***

**§ 8.3 It is considered within the authority of the Chair to admonish visitors concerning the proper behavior in the House galleries.**

On July 31, 1969,<sup>(2)</sup> a point of order was raised concerning the behavior of visitors in the House gallery.

MR. [JOHN E.] MOSS [Jr., of California]: Mr. Chairman, I make the point of order that the galleries are not in order and that the applause is in violation of the rules of the House and must stop.

THE CHAIRMAN [Chet Holifield of California]: The point of order is well taken.

1. 118 CONG. REC. 4331, 92d Cong. 2d Sess.
2. 115 CONG. REC. 21634, 91st Cong. 1st Sess.

The Chair will state that visitors in the gallery are guests of the House of Representatives. Under the rules and practices of the House of Representatives, visitors in the gallery are not permitted to make undue noise or to applaud or to in any way show their pleasure or displeasure as to the actions of the Members of the House.

**§ 8.4 The Speaker may order the removal of a person who is taking pictures of the House from the gallery without permission of the House.**

On Feb. 22, 1950,<sup>(3)</sup> Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, made the following statement:

THE SPEAKER: The Chair understands there is a camera in the gallery. Whoever has that camera will remove the camera or remove themselves and the camera immediately. That is a violation of the rules of the House.

MR. [JOHN E.] RANKIN [of Mississippi]: Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

In that case, is it not the rule to clear the gallery?

THE SPEAKER: Not necessarily.

MR. RANKIN: To clear them of those who are violating the law.

THE SPEAKER: The Chair has just made that suggestion.<sup>(4)</sup>

**§ 8.5 It is considered within the authority of the Speaker**

3. 96 CONG. REC. 2152, 81st Cong. 2d Sess.
4. *Parliamentarian's Note*: In this instance the Doorkeeper of the House confiscated the film.

**to clear the House galleries in the case of disorderly conduct.<sup>(5)</sup>**

On Jan. 18, 1972,<sup>(6)</sup> the following point of order was raised:

MR. [DURWARD G.] HALL [of Missouri]: Mr. Speaker, I demand that the gallery be cleared.

THE SPEAKER: [Carl Albert, of Oklahoma]: The Chair will not tolerate demonstrations of approval or disapproval in the galleries.

MR. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order that our guests and those in the galleries are not in order. I request that the gallery be cleared.

THE SPEAKER: The gentleman's point is well taken. The gallery will be cleared

***Controlling Press Galleries***

**§ 8.6 It is considered within the authority of the Speaker, in preserving order in the House galleries, to direct each of the press galleries to report to him about what remedial actions will be taken to prevent infractions of the House rules regarding the**

5. See Rule I clause 2, *House Rules and Manual* §622 (1973).

6. 118 CONG. REC. 92d Con. 2d Sess.

**taking of photographs of the House in session.**

On Jan. 6, 1969,<sup>(7)</sup> Speaker John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts, addressed the press galleries:

THE SPEAKER: The Chair is troubled over the flagrant violation by some of the news media of the restrictions on the taking of pictures during the organization of the House on last Friday.

All segments of the news media were thoroughly familiar with the rules that taking any pictures—still, moving, TV, or tape—are prohibited except during the period when the [flood] lights are turned on.

Some members of the news media who were granted the privilege of attending the opening session of the 91st Congress and permitted to bring their cameras into the galleries ignored the restrictions in complete violation of the agreement upon which they were admitted.

The Chair is calling this matter to the attention of the news media galleries and will expect a report from each on the action taken by them with respect to the violations of the regulations as well as to what provisions they are making to prevent such violations in the future.

7. 115 CONG. REC. 145, 91st Cong. 1st Sess.