

On June 18, 1958,⁽¹³⁾ the Speaker⁽¹⁴⁾ recognized Mr. Clarence Cannon, of Missouri, on a question of personal privilege after Mr. Cannon directed attention to a letter appearing in the Appendix to the *Congressional Record* which described certain material attributed to him as a “lie.”

§ 28. Published Charges of Impropriety

“Vote Selling”

§ 28.1 A newspaper article accusing a Member of selling his vote gave rise to a question of personal privilege.

On July 24, 1957,⁽¹⁵⁾ Mr. H. Carl Andersen, of Minnesota, on a question of personal privilege, called the attention of the House to a newspaper article which included allegations of his involvement in a conflict-of-interest case. After receipt of the objectionable articles, the Speaker⁽¹⁶⁾ stated:

The Chair has read the headline, to which the gentleman refers, and it does, in effect, accuse a Member of

13. 104 CONG. REC. 11609, 85th Cong. 2d Sess.

14. Sam Rayburn (Tex.).1

15. 103 CONG. REC. 12583, 85th Cong. 1st Sess.

16. Sam Rayburn (Tex.).

Congress of selling his vote, and this is carried forward in the second paragraph.

The Chair thinks the gentleman has stated a question of personal privilege and therefore, recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. H. Carl Andersen].

Implying Reprehensibility

§ 28.2 A newspaper article referring to a Member as “reprehensible” or “punk” gave rise to a question of personal privilege.

On Jan. 25, 1944,⁽¹⁷⁾ Mr. John E. Rankin, of Mississippi, rose to a question of personal privilege and was recognized to reply to a newspaper article in which he was referred to as “reprehensible” Rankin and “punk” Rankin.

Questionable Business Associations

§ 28.3 Newspaper articles accusing a Member of promoting and participating in an organization being investigated by a Senate investigating committee gave rise to a question of personal privilege.

On July 8, 1946,⁽¹⁸⁾ Mr. Andrew J. May, of Kentucky, presented as

17. 90 CONG. REC. 751, 78th Cong. 2d Sess.

18. 92 CONG. REC. 8391, 79th Cong. 2d Sess.

involving a question of personal privilege certain newspaper articles which were submitted to the Speaker's desk. Thereupon, the Speaker⁽¹⁹⁾ stated as follows:

THE SPEAKER: The Chair has looked over these papers and headlines, as well as the body of the articles. One headline states "Documents show May had financial stake in Garsson's empire."

The article further states:

Documentary evidence that Representative May, Democrat, of Kentucky, chairman of the House Military Committee, had a financial interest in the Illinois munitions empire he is said to have promoted at the War Department and his vehement denial featured explosive development yesterday before the Senate War Investigation Committee.

The Chair thinks that these entitle the gentleman to the question of personal privilege in his Representative capacity, therefore, it recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. May].

Ethnic Slur

§ 28.4 On one occasion, a Member took the floor for a one-minute speech to respond to a newspaper article which included a reference to him as "one of the few Italian American undesirables in Congress."

19. Sam Rayburn (Tex.).

This precedent was occasioned by certain House proceedings on Nov. 22, 1967.⁽²⁰⁾

§ 29. Published Charges of Illegality

Unspecified Illegal Acts

§ 29.1 A newspaper article charging that a Member did something illegal in his representative capacity gave rise to a question of personal privilege.

On Jan. 18, 1954,⁽¹⁾ the Chair recognized Mr. Clare E. Hoffman, of Michigan:

MR. HOFFMAN of Michigan: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of personal privilege. I have previously submitted the question to the Speaker.

THE SPEAKER:⁽²⁾ The Chair may say that the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. Hoffman] has very kindly given him the opportunity of looking over the question of personal privilege. In one instance it is stated that the gentleman did something illegal in his representative capacity, so therefore the gentleman qualifies to present his question of personal privilege.

20. 113 CONG. REC. 33693, 90th Cong. 1st Sess. See §22.4, supra, for a detailed discussion of this precedent.

1. 100 CONG. REC. 388, 83d Cong. 2d Sess.
2. Joseph W. Martin, Jr. (Mass.).