

and preparation of a bill, were breaches of privilege, *2 Nalson, 743*; and in 1783, December 17, it was declared a breach of fundamental privileges, &c., to report any opinion or pretended opinion of the King on any bill or proceeding depending in either House of Parliament, with a view to influence the votes of the members, *2 Hats., 251, 6*.

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SEC. VI—QUORUM

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In general the chair is not to be taken till a quorum for business is present; unless, after due waiting, such a quorum be despaired of, when the chair may be taken and the House adjourned. And whenever, during business, it is observed that a quorum is not present, any member may call for the House to be counted, and being found deficient, business is suspended. *2 Hats., 125, 126*.

§ 310. Necessity of a quorum during business, including debate.

In the House the Speaker takes the Chair at the hour to which the House stood adjourned and there is no requirement that the House proceed immediately to establish a quorum, although the Speaker has the authority under clause 7 of rule XX to recognize for a call of the House at any time. The question of a quorum is not considered unless properly raised (IV, 2733; VI, 624), and it is not in order for the Speaker to recognize for a point of no quorum unless he has put the pending question or proposition to a vote. While it was formerly the rule that a quorum was necessary for debate as well as business (IV, 2935–2949), under the procedure put in effect in the 95th Congress such is not the case. In the 94th Congress, it was established by rule that certain proceedings in the House did not require a quorum (clause 7 of rule XX).