

ference. 6 *Grey*, 128, 300, 387; 7 *Grey*, 80; 8 *Grey*, 210, 255; 1 *Torbuck's Deb.*, 278; 10 *Grey*, 293; 1 *Chandler*, 49, 287. But this is not the modern practice. 8 *Grey*, 255.

§ 559. Obsolete provision as to conference on first reading.

A conference has been asked after the first reading of a bill. 1 *Grey*, 194. This is a singular instance.

The House has no procedure conforming to this provision.

SEC. XLVII—MESSAGES

§ 560. Messages sent only when both Houses are sitting.

Messages between the Houses are to be sent only while both Houses are sitting. 3 *Hats.*, 15. * * *

Formerly this rule was observed (V, 6603, 6604), but since the 62d Congress messages have been received by the House when the Senate was not in session (VIII, 3338). Clause 2 of rule II was added in the 97th Congress to authorize the Clerk to receive messages from the President and the Senate at any time that the House is not in session (H. Res. 5, Jan. 5, 1981, p. 98).

§ 561. Messages received during debate.

* * * They are received during a debate without adjourning the debate. 3 *Hats.*, 22.

In the House messages are received during debate, the Member having the floor yielding on request of the Speaker.

In Senate the messengers are introduced in any state of business, except: 1. While a question is being put. 2. While the yeas and nays are being called. 3. While the ballots are being counted. The first case is short; the second and third are cases where any interruption might occasion errors difficult to be corrected. So arranged June 15, 1798.

§ 562. Reception of messages during voting, in absence of a quorum, etc.

In the House messages are not received while a question is being put or during a division by rising vote. However, they are received during the call of the yeas and nays, during consideration of a question of privilege (V, 6640-6642), during a call of the House (V, 6600, 6650; VIII, 3339), during debate on a motion to approve the Journal (Sept. 13, 1965, p. 23607), and before the organization of the House (V, 6647-6649). But the Speaker exercises his discretion about interrupting the pending business (V, 6602).

In the House, as in Parliament, if the House be in committee when a messenger attends, the Speaker takes the chair to receive the message, and then quits it to return into committee without any question or interruption. *4 Grey, 226.*

§ 563. Informal rising of Committee of the Whole to receive a message.

Messengers are not saluted by the Members, but by the Speaker for the House. *2 Grey, 253, 274.*

§ 564. Salutation of messengers by the Speaker.

The practice of the House as to reception of messages is founded on this paragraph of the parliamentary law and on the former joint rules (V, 6591-6595). The Speaker, with a slight inclination, addresses the messenger, by his title, after the messenger, with an inclination, has addressed "Mr. Speaker" (V, 6591).

If messengers commit an error in delivering their message, they may be admitted or called in to correct their message. *4 Grey, 41.* Accordingly, March 13, 1800, the Senate having made two amendments to a bill from the House, their Secretary, by mistake, delivered one only, which being inadmissible by itself, that House disagreed, and notified the Senate of their disagreement. This produced a discovery of the mistake. The Secretary was sent to the other House to correct his mistake, the correction was received, and the two amendments acted on de novo.

§ 565. Correction and return of messages.

The request of the Senate that its Secretary be allowed to correct an error in a message was granted by order of the House (V, 6605), and in

a similar case, when the House directed its clerk to correct an error in a message to the Senate, the Senate agreed to the correction (V, 6607). In the House a proposition to correct an error in a message to the Senate is received as a question of privilege (III, 2613; Oct. 1, 1982, p. 27172). One House sometimes asks of the other the return of a message (V, 6609–6611; Nov. 16, 1989, p. 29587). Where the Senate had erroneously appointed conferees to a bill after the papers had been messaged to the House, the Senate requested that the House return the message so it could be made to reflect the appointment of Senate conferees (May 20, 1996, p. 11809). The House by unanimous consent agreed to a request from the Senate for the return of a Senate bill, to the end that the Senate effect a specified (substantive) change in its text (May 7, 1998, p. —).

As soon as the messenger who has brought bills from the other House has retired, the Speaker holds the bills in his hand; and acquaints the House “that the other House have by their messenger sent certain bills,” and then reads their titles, and delivers them to the Clerk to be safely kept till they shall be called for to be read. *Hakew.*, 178.

In the House the message goes to the Speaker's table, but the Speaker does not acquaint the House, as they have already heard the message. From the Speaker's table messages are disposed of under clause 2 of rule XIV.

It is not the usage for one House to inform the other by what numbers a bill is passed. *10 Grey*, 150. Yet they have sometimes recommended a bill, as of great importance, to the consideration of the House to which it is sent. *3 Hats.*, 25. * * *

The Houses of Congress do not communicate by what numbers a bill is passed, or otherwise recommend their bills.

* * * Nor when they have rejected a bill from the other House, do they give notice of it; but it passes sub silentio, to prevent unbecoming altercations. 1 *Blackst., 183.*

§ 568. Information by message as to rejection of bills.

But in Congress the rejection is notified by message to the House in which the bill originated.

In the two Houses of Congress the fact of the rejection of a bill is messaged to the House in which the bill originated, as in the days of Jefferson, although the joint rule requiring it has disappeared (IV, 3422; V, 6601). And in a case wherein the House had stricken out the enacting words of a Senate bill, the Senate was notified that the bill had been rejected (IV, 3423; VII, 2638; Oct. 4, 1972, pp. 33785-87).

A question is never asked by the one House of the other by way of message, but only at a conference; for this is an interrogatory, not a message. 3 *Grey, 151, 181.*

§ 569. Questions asked by conference, not by message.

In 1798 the House asked of the Senate a question by way of conference, but this appears to be the only instance (V, 6256).

When a bill is sent by one House to the other, and is neglected, they may send a message to remind them of it. 3 *Hats., 25; 5 Grey, 154.* But if it be mere inattention, it is better to have it done informally by communication between the Speakers or Members of the two Houses.

§ 570. Messages as to neglected bills.

It does not appear that either House of Congress has by message reminded the other of a neglected bill.

Where the subject of a message is of a nature that it can properly be communicated to both Houses of Parliament, it is expected that this

§ 571. Messages from the President to the two Houses.

communication should be made to both on the same day. But where a message was accompanied with an original declaration, signed by the party to which the message referred, its being sent to one House was not noticed by the other, because the declaration being original, could not possibly be sent to both Houses at the same time. *2 Hats., 260, 261, 262.*

The King having sent original letters to the Commons afterward desires they may be returned, that he may communicate them to the Lords. *1 Chandler, 303.*

A message of the President of the United States is usually communicated to both Houses on the same day when its nature permits (V, 6590); but an original document accompanying can, of course, be sent to but one House (V, 6616, 6617). The President having by inadvertence included certain papers in a message, was allowed to withdraw them (V, 6651). In the House the Speaker has the discretion, which he rarely exercises, to suspend a roll call in order to receive a message from the President.

SEC. XLVIII—ASSENT

The House which has received a bill and passed it may present it for the King's assent, and ought to do it, though they have not by message notified to the other their passage of it. Yet the notifying by message is a form which ought to be observed between the two Houses from motives of respect and good understanding. *2 Hats., 242.* Were the bill to be withheld from being presented to the King, it would be an infringement of the rules of Parliament. *Ib.*

In the House it was held that where there had been no unreasonable delay in transmitting an enrolled bill to the President, a resolution relating thereto did not present a question of privilege (III, 2601).