

to prepare an updated compilation of such precedents every two years (H. Res. 988, 93d Cong., Oct. 8, 1974, p. 34470). The Speaker feels constrained in his rulings to give precedent its proper influence (II, 1317), since the advantage of such a course are undeniable (IV, 4045). But decisions of the Speakers on questions of order are not like judgments of courts which conclude the rights of parties, but may be reexamined and reversed (IV, 4637), except on discretionary matters of recognition (II, 1425). It is rare, however, that such a reversal occurs.

SEC. XVI.—ORDER RESPECTING PAPERS.

The Clerk is to let no journals, records, accounts, or papers be taken from the table or out of his custody. *2 Hats., 193, 194.*

§ 352. Safekeeping of papers and integrity of bills.

Mr. Prynne, having at a Committee of the Whole amended a mistake in a bill without order or knowledge of the committee, was reprimanded. *1 Chand., 77.*

A bill being missing, the House resolved that a protestation should be made and subscribed by the members “before Almighty God, and this honorable House, that neither myself, nor any other to my knowledge, have taken away, or do at this present conceal a bill entitled,” &c. *5 Grey, 202.*

After a bill is engrossed, it is put into the Speaker’s hands, and he is not to let any one have it to look into. *Town, col. 209.*

In the House of Representatives an alleged improper alteration of a bill was presented as a question of privilege and examined by a select committee. It being ascertained that the alteration was made to correct a clerical error, the committee reported that it was “highly censurable in any Member or officer of the House to make any change, even the most unimportant, in any bill or resolution which has received the sanction of this body” (III, 2598). Engrossed bills do not go into the Speaker’s hands. Enrolled bills go to him for signature.