

of June 1, 1789 (2 U.S.C. 25), the Clerk recognized for nominations for Speaker, at the convening of a new Congress, as being of higher constitutional privilege than a resolution to postpone the election of a Speaker and instead provide for the election of a Speaker pro tempore pending the disposition of certain ethics charges against the nominee of the majority party (Jan. 7, 1997, p. —).

A Speaker may be removed at the will of the House, and a Speaker pro tempore appointed, 2 Grey, 186; 5 Grey, 134.

§ 315. Removal of the Speaker.

The House of Representatives has never removed a Speaker; but it had on several occasions removed or suspended other officers, as Clerk and Doorkeeper (I, 287-290, 292; II, 1417), who are officers classed by the Constitution in the phrase "the House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other officers." A resolution for the removal of an officer is presented as a matter of privilege (I, 284-286; VI, 35), and a resolution declaring the office of Speaker vacant presents a question of constitutional privilege (VI, 35).

SEC. X.—ADDRESS.

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A joint address of both Houses of Parliament is read by the Speaker of the House of Lords. It may be attended by both Houses in a body, or by a Committee from each House, or by the two Speakers only. An address of the House of Commons only may be presented by the Whole House, or by the Speaker, 9 Grey, 473; 1 Chandler, 298, 301; or by such particular members as are of the privy council. 2 Hats., 278.

§ 316. Addresses to the President.

In the first years of Congress the President annually delivered an address to the two Houses in joint session, and the House of Representatives then prepared an address, which the Speaker, attended by the House, carried to the President. A joint rule of 1789 also provided for the presentation of joint addresses of the two Houses to the President (V, 6630). In 1876 the joint rules of the House were abrogated, including the joint rule providing for presentation of the joint addresses of the two Houses to the President (V, 6782-6787). In 1801 President Jefferson transmitted a message "in writing" and discontinued the practice of making addresses in person.

From 1801 to 1913 all messages were sent in writing (V, 6629), but President Wilson resumed the custom of making addresses in person on April 8, 1913, and, with the exception of President Hoover (VIII, 3333), the custom has been followed generally by subsequent Presidents.

SEC. XI.—COMMITTEES.

Standing committees, as of Privileges and Elections, &c., are usually appointed at the first meeting, to continue through the session. The person first named is generally permitted to act as chairman. But this is a matter of courtesy; every committee having a right to elect their own chairman, who presides over them, puts questions, and reports their proceedings to the House. 4 *inst.*, 11, 12; *Scob.*, 9; 1 *Grey*, 122.

§ 317. Appointment of standing committees; and designation and duties of chairmen thereof.

Prior to the 62d Congress, standing as well as select committees and their chairmen were appointed by the Speaker, but under the present form of rule X, adopted in 1911, continued as a part of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and revised under the Committee Reform Amendments of 1974 (H. Res. 988, 93d Cong., Oct. 8, 1974, p. 34470), standing committees and their respective chairmen are elected by the House (IV, 4448; VIII, 2178). Owing to their number and size, committees are not usually elected immediately, but resolutions providing for such elections are presented by the majority and minority parties pursuant to clause 6 of rule X as soon as they are able to perfect the lists. A committee may order its report to be made by the chairman, or by some other member (IV, 4669), even by a member of the minority party (IV, 4672, 4673), or by a delegate, July 1, 1958 (Burns of Hawaii) p. 12871; and the chairman sometimes submits a report in which he has not concurred (IV, 4670). Clause 2(l)(1)(A) of rule XI requires that a report which has been approved by the committee must be filed with the House within seven calendar days after a written request from a majority of the committee is submitted to the committee clerk.