

RULE L.

PROCEDURE FOR RESPONSE TO SUBPOENAS.

1. When any Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives is properly served with a subpoena or other judicial order directing appearance as a witness relating to the official functions of the House or for the production or disclosure of any documents relating to the official functions of the House, such Member, officer, or employee shall comply, consistently with the privileges and rights of the House, with said subpoena or other judicial order as hereinafter provided, unless otherwise determined pursuant to the provisions of this rule.

2. Upon receipt of a properly served subpoena or other judicial order directing appearance as a witness relating to the official functions of the House or for the production or disclosure of any documents relating to the official functions of the House, such Member, officer, or employee shall promptly notify, in writing, the Speaker of its receipt and such notification shall then be promptly laid before the House by the Speaker, except that during a period of recess or adjournment of longer than three days, no such notification to the House shall be required. However, upon the reconvening of the House, such notification shall then be promptly laid before the House by the Speaker.

3. Once notification has been laid before the House, the Member, officer, or employee shall

determine whether the issuance of the subpoena or other judicial order is a proper exercise of the court's jurisdiction, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House. The Member, officer, or employee shall notify the Speaker prior to seeking judicial determination of these matters.

4. Upon determination whether the subpoena or other judicial order is a proper exercise of the court's jurisdiction, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House, the Member, officer, or employee shall immediately notify, in writing, the Speaker of such a determination.

5. The Speaker shall inform the House of the determination of whether the subpoena or other judicial order is a proper exercise of the court's jurisdiction, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House, and shall generally describe the records or information sought, except that during any recess or adjournment of the House for longer than three days, no such notification is required. However, upon the reconvening of the House, such notification shall then be promptly laid before the House by the Speaker.

6. Upon such notification to the House that said subpoena is a proper exercise of the court's jurisdiction, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House, the Member, officer, or employee shall comply with such subpoena or other judicial order by supplying certified copies, unless the

House adopts a resolution to the contrary; except that under no circumstances shall any minutes or transcripts of executive sessions, or any evidence of witnesses in respect thereto, be disclosed or copied. Should the House be in recess or adjournment for longer than three days, the Speaker may authorize compliance or take such other action as he deems appropriate under the circumstances during the pendency of such recess or adjournment. And upon the reconvening of the House, all matters having transpired under this clause shall be laid promptly before the House by the Speaker.

7. A copy of this rule shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the House to any of said courts whenever any such subpoena or other judicial order is issued and served on a Member, officer, or employee of the House.

8. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to deprive, condition or waive the constitutional or legal rights applicable or available to any Member, officer, or employee of the House, or of the House itself, or the right of a Member or the House to assert such privilege or right before any court in the United States, or the right of the House thereafter to assert such privilege or immunity before any court in the United States.

Rule L was added in the 97th Congress (H. Res. 5, Jan. 5, 1981, p. 98) and provides general authority to the Members, officers, or employees to comply with subpoenas served on them in relation to their official functions and establishes the procedure by which subpoenas shall be complied with. Until the 95th Congress, whenever a Member, officer, or employee received a subpoena, the House would decide by adopting a resolution granting authority to the person to respond. This case-by-case approach was changed in the 95th (H. Res. 10, Jan. 4, 1977, p. 73) and 96th Con-

gresses (H. Res. 10, Jan. 15, 1979, p. 19) when general authority was granted to respond to subpoenas and a procedure was established for automatic compliance without the necessity of a House vote. This standing authority was clarified and revised later in the 96th Congress by H. Res. 722 (Sept. 17, 1980, pp. 25777–90) and forms the basis for the present rule.

In the 102d Congress, the House considered as questions of the privileges of the House resolutions: responding to a subpoena for records of the “bank” in the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms (Apr. 29, 1992, p. —); responding to a contemporaneous “request” for such records from a Special Counsel (Apr. 29, 1992, p. —); and authorizing an officer of the House to release certain documents in response to another such request from the Special Counsel (May 28, 1992, p. —).

Under clause 2 of rule L, the Speaker promptly lays before the House a communication notifying him of the receipt of a subpoena, but the rule does not require that the text of a subpoena be printed in the Record (July 31, 1992, p. —).

RULE LI.

GIFT RULE.

1. (a) No Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives shall knowingly accept a gift except as provided in this rule.

(b)(1) For the purpose of this rule, the term “gift” means any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other item having monetary value. The term includes gifts of services, training, transportation, lodging, and meals, whether provided in kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement after the expense has been incurred.

(2)(A) A gift to a family member of a Member, officer, or employee, or a gift to any other individual based on that individual’s relationship with the Member, officer, or employee, shall be considered a gift to the Member, officer, or em-