

RULE VI.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.

1. There is established an Office of Inspector General.

§ 654. Inspector General.

2. The Inspector General shall be appointed for a Congress by the Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader, acting jointly.

3. Subject to the policy direction and oversight of the Committee on House Oversight, the Inspector General shall be responsible only for—

(a) conducting periodic audits of the financial and administrative functions of the House and joint entities;

(b) informing the Officers or other officials who are the subject of an audit of the results of that audit and suggesting appropriate curative actions;

(c) simultaneously notifying the Speaker, the majority leader, the minority leader, and the chairman and ranking minority party member of the Committee on House Oversight in the case of any financial irregularity discovered in the course of carrying out responsibilities under this rule;

(d) simultaneously submitting to the Speaker, the majority leader, and the chairman and ranking minority party member of the Committee on House Oversight a report of each audit conducted under this rule; and

(e) reporting to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct information involv-

ing possible violations by any Member, officer, or employee of the House of any rule of the House or of any law applicable to the performance of official duties or the discharge of official responsibilities which may require referral to the appropriate Federal or State authorities pursuant to clause 4(e)(1)(C) of rule X.

This form of rule VI was adopted in the 104th Congress (sec. 201(c), H. Res. 6, Jan. 4, 1995, p. —). Its predecessor form was composed in the 103d Congress (H. Res. 5, Jan. 5, 1993, p. —) by combining two rules adopted in the House Administrative Reform Resolution of 1992 (H. Res. 423, 102d Cong., Apr. 9, 1992, p. —). For the history of rule VI before 1992, see § 654a, *infra*.

In the form of the rule adopted in the 103d Congress, clause 1 corresponded to an erstwhile rule LII of the 102d Congress (relating to the Director of Non-legislative and Financial Services, who in the 104th Congress was supplanted by the Chief Administrative Officer; see rule V, §§ 651a–e, *supra*), and clause 2 corresponded to an erstwhile rule LIII of the 102d Congress (relating to the Inspector General). In converting clause 2 of the former rule VI into the present rule VI, the 104th Congress: broadened the auditing responsibilities beyond the offices of the elected officers (paragraph (a), formerly clause 2(c)(1)); added requirements for simultaneous reporting (paragraphs (c) and (d), formerly clauses 2(c)(3) and (4)); deleted a provision relating to classification of employees (formerly clause 2(d)); and added the responsibility to report certain information to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (paragraph (e)) (sec. 201, H. Res. 6, 104th Congress, p. —). The 104th Congress also mandated that the Inspector General, in consultation with the Speaker and the Committee on House Oversight, procure an independent and comprehensive audit of House financial records and administrative operations and report the results thereof in accord with this rule (sec. 107, H. Res. 6, Jan. 4, 1995, p. —).

Pursuant to clause 2(b) of the form of the rule adopted in the 103d Congress, the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader jointly appointed the first Inspector General of the House of Representatives (Nov. 10, 1993, p. —).

Until the 102d Congress, rule VI provided for an Office of the Postmaster, who superintended the post offices of the House and the delivery of its mail. The earlier form of the rule was adopted in 1838 and amended in 1880 (I, 270), 1911 (VI, 34), 1971 (H. Res. 5, 92d Cong., p. 144), and 1972 (H. Res. 1153, 92d

§ 654a. Former Office of the Postmaster.

Cong., pp. 36013-15). The Office of the Postmaster was abolished during the 102d Congress by sections 2 and 5 of the House Administrative Reform Resolution of 1992 (H. Res. 423, Apr. 9, 1992, p. —).

RULE VII.

DUTIES OF THE CHAPLAIN.

§ 655. Duties of the Chaplain. The Chaplain shall attend at the commencement of each day's sitting of the House and open the same with prayer.

This rule was adopted in 1880 (I, 272), but the sessions of the House were opened with prayer from the first, and the Chaplain was an officer of the House before the adoption of the rule (I, 273-282). The Chaplain takes the oath prescribed for the officers of the House (VI, 31; Feb. 1, 1950, p. 1311). Prayer by the Chaplain is not business requiring the presence of a quorum and the Speaker declines to entertain a point of no quorum before prayer is offered (VI, 663; clause 6(a) (1) of rule XV). There is no precedent for prayer to be offered by the Chaplain during a continuous session of the House, absent an adjournment or recess (compare Apr. 22 and 23, 1985, pp. 8753 and 8959). Form of resignation of the Chaplain (Feb. 28, 1921, p. 4075; Jan. 30, 1950, p. 1097). The election of a Chaplain emeritus (VI, 31; Jan. 30, 1950, p. 1095).

In the 97th Congress, the House adopted a privileged resolution asserting the constitutional prerogative of the House to establish the office of Chaplain and directing counsel for the Speaker and Chaplain to seek judicial review of a United States Court of Appeals decision (*Murray v. Buchanan*, 729 F.2d 689) holding that no constitutional provision precluded judicial determination whether establishment of the Chaplain violated the establishment clause of the First amendment to the Constitution (H. Res. 413, Mar. 30, 1982, p. 5890).

RULE VIII.

DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS.

§ 656. Members required to be present and vote. 1. Every Member shall be present within the Hall of the House during its sittings, unless excused or necessarily prevented; and shall vote