

SEC. XXVII.—REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

The chairman of the committee, standing in his place, informs the House that the committee to whom was referred such a bill, have, according to order, had the same under consideration, and have directed him to report the same without any amendment, or with sundry amendments (as the case may be), which he is ready to do when the House pleases to receive it. And he or any other may move that it be now received; but the cry of “now, now,” from the House, generally dispenses with the formality of a motion and question. He then reads the amendments, with the coherence in the bill, and opens the alterations and the reasons of the committee for such amendments, until he has gone through the whole. He then delivers it at the Clerk’s table, where the amendments reported are read by the Clerk without the coherence; whereupon the papers lie upon the table till the House, at its convenience, shall take up the report. *Scob.*, 52; *Hakew.*, 148.

§ 418. Parliamentary method of submitting reports.

This provision is to a large extent obsolete so far as the practice of the House of Representatives is concerned. Most of the reports of committees are made by filing them with the Clerk without reading (clause 2 of rule XIII), and only the reports of committees having leave to report at any time are made by the chairman or other member of the committee from the floor (clause 4(a) of rule XI). Committee reports must be submitted while the House is in session, and this requirement may be waived by unanimous consent only, and not by motion (Dec. 17, 1982, p. 31951). All reports privileged under clause 4 of rule XI at one time could be called up for consideration immediately after being filed, but since January 3, 1975 (H. Res. 988, 93d Cong., Oct. 8, 1974, p. —), such reports—with two exceptions—are subject to the requirement of clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI and cannot be considered in the House until the third calendar day

(excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) on which they are available to Members. The exceptions from the three-day rule, in addition to the exceptions stated in the rule for declarations of war and actions on certain executive determinations, are certain reports from the Committee on Rules (see clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI) and primary expense resolutions reported from the Committee on House Oversight (see clause 5 of rule XI). Reports not filed as privileged under clause 4(a) of rule XI are subject to the three-day rule unless specifically exempted therefrom (in clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI) or unless privileged under rule IX. It has been held, for example, that a privileged report involving the privileges of the House under rule IX (such as a report from a committee on the contemptuous conduct of a witness before the committee) would not be subject to the three-day rule (Speaker Albert, July 13, 1971, pp. 24720–23). The general rule (clause 1 of rule XIII) is that reports shall be placed on the calendars of the House, there to await action under the rules for the order of business (rule XXIV).

The report being made, the committee is dissolved and can act no more without a new power. *Scob. 51*. But it may be revived by a vote, and the same matter recommitted to them. *4 Grey, 361*.

§ 419. Reports; dissolution, and revival of select committees.

This provision does not apply now to the Committees of the Whole or to the standing committees. It does apply to select committees, which expire when they report finally, but may be revived by the action of the House in referring in open House a new matter (IV, 4404, 4405). The provision does not preclude a standing committee from reporting a bill similar to one previously reported by such committee (VIII, 2311).

SEC. XXVIII.—BILL, RECOMMITMENT.

After a bill has been committed and reported, it ought not, in any ordinary course, to be recommitted; but in cases of importance, and for special reasons, it is sometimes recommitted, and usually to the same committee. *Hakew, 151*. If a report be recommitted before agreed to in the House, what has passed in committee is of no validity; the whole question is again before the committee, and a

§ 420. Recommittal of a bill to a committee.