

reading as soon as the question then before the House is disposed of; and bills brought in on leave, which are read first whenever presented. So messages from the other House respecting amendments to bills are taken up as soon as the House is clear of a question, unless they require to be printed, for better consideration. Orders of the day may be called for, even when another question is before the House.

In Jefferson's time the principles of this comment would have applied to both House and Senate; but in the House the pressure of business has become so great that the order of business may be interrupted at the will of the majority only by certain specified matters (see annotations following rule XXIV). For matters not thus specified, interruption of the order takes place only by unanimous consent.

SEC. XV.—ORDER.

* * * * *

In Parliament, "instances make order," per Speaker Onslow. *2 Hats.*, 141. But what is done only by one Parliament, cannot be called custom of Parliament, by Prynne. *1 Grey*, 52.

§ 351. Precedent in Parliament and the House.

In the House of Representatives the Clerk is required to note all questions of order and the decisions thereon and print the record thereof as an appendix to the Journal (clause 3 of rule III). The Parliamentarian has the responsibility for compiling and updating the precedents (sec. 341–342, Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970; 84 Stat. 1140). The Committee Reform Amendments of 1974 gave the Speaker the responsibility 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.