

Members to properly comprehend and participate in the business of the House. To this end, and in order to permit the Chair to understand and to correctly put the question on the numerous requests that are made by Members, the Chair requests that Members and others who have the privileges of the floor desist from audible conversation in the Chamber while the business of the House is being conducted. The Chair would encourage all Members to review rule 17 to gain a better understanding of the proper rules of decorum expected to them, and especially:

(1) to avoid "personalities" in debate with respect to references to other Members, the Senate, and the President;

(2) to address the Chair while standing and only when, and not beyond, the time recognized, and not to address the television or other imagined audience;

(3) to refrain from passing between the Chair and a Member speaking, or directly in front of a Member speaking from the well;

(4) to refrain from smoking in the Chamber;

(5) to disable wireless phones when entering the Chamber;

(6) to wear appropriate business attire in the Chamber; and to generally display the same degree of respect to the Chair and other Members that every Member is due.

The Speaker's policies with respect to decorum in debate announced on January 3, 1991, and January 4, 1995, will apply during the 108th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER, JANUARY 3, 1991

The SPEAKER. It is essential that the dignity of the proceedings of the House be preserved, not only to assure that the House conducts its business in an orderly fashion but to permit Members to properly comprehend and participate in the business of the House. To this end, and in order to permit the Chair to understand and to correctly put the question on the numerous requests that are made by Members, the Chair requests that Members and others who have the privileges of the floor desist from audible conversation in the Chamber while the business of the House is being conducted. The Chair would encourage all Members to review rule XVII to gain a better understanding of the proper rules of decorum expected of them, and especially: First, to avoid "personalities" in debate with respect to references to other Members, the Senate, and the President; second, to address the Chair while standing and only when and not beyond the time recognized, and not to address the television or other imagined audience; third, to refrain from passing between the Chair and the Member speaking, or directly in front of a Member speaking from the well; fourth, to refrain from smoking in the Chamber; and generally to display the same degree of respect to the Chair and other Members that every Member is due.

The Speaker's announcement of January 4, 1995, will continue to apply in the 108th Congress as follows:

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like all Members to be on notice that the Chair intends to strictly enforce time limitations on debate. Furthermore, the Chair has the authority to immediately interrupt Members in debate who transgress rule XVII by failing to avoid "personalities" in debate with respect to references to the Senate, the President, and other Members, rather than wait for Members to complete their remarks.

Finally, it is not in order to speak disrespectfully of the Speaker; and under the precedents the sanctions for such violations transcend the ordinary requirements for timeliness of challenges. This separate treatment is recorded in volume 2 of Hinds' Prece-

dents, at section 1248 and was reiterated on January 19, 1995.

6. CONDUCT OF VOTES BY ELECTRIC DEVICE

The Speaker's policy announced on January 4, 1995, will continue through the 108th Congress.

The SPEAKER. The Chair wishes to enunciate a clear policy with respect to the conduct of electronic votes.

As Members are aware, clause 2(a) of rule XX provides that Members shall have not less than 15 minutes in which to answer an ordinary [rollcall] record vote or quorum call. The rule obviously establishes 15 minutes as a minimum. Still, with the cooperation of the Members, a vote can easily be completed in that time. The events of October 30, 1991, stand out as proof of this point. On that occasion, the House was considering a bill in the Committee of the Whole under a special rule that placed an overall time limit on the amendment process, including the time consumed by [rollcalls] record votes. The Chair announced, and then strictly enforced, a policy of closing electronic votes as soon as possible after the guaranteed period of 15 minutes. Members appreciated and cooperated with the Chair's enforcement of the policy on that occasion.

The Chair desires that the example of October 30, 1991, be made the regular practice of the House. To that end, the Chair enlists the assistance of all Members in avoiding the unnecessary loss of time in conducting the business of the House. The Chair encourages all Members to depart for the Chamber promptly upon the appropriate bell and light signal. As in recent Congresses, the cloakrooms should not forward to the Chair requests to hold a vote by electronic device, but should simply apprise inquiring Members of the time remaining on the voting clock.

Although no occupant of the Chair would prevent a Member who is in the well of the Chamber before the announcement of the result from casting his or her vote, each occupant of the Chair will have the full support of the Speaker in striving to close each electronic vote at the earliest opportunity. Members should not rely on signals relayed from outside the Chamber to assume that votes will be held open until they arrive in the Chamber.

7. USE OF HANDOUTS ON HOUSE FLOOR

The Speaker's policy announced on September 27, 1995, will continue through 108th Congress.

The SPEAKER. A recent misuse of handouts on the floor of the House has been called to the attention of the Chair and the House. At the bipartisan request of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the Chair announces that all handouts distributed on or adjacent to the House floor by Members during House proceedings must bear the name of the member authorizing their distribution. In addition, the content of those materials must comport with standards of propriety applicable to words spoken in debate or inserted in the RECORD. Failure to comply with this admonition may constitute a breach of decorum and may give rise to a question of privilege.

The Chair would also remind Members that, pursuant to clause 5 of rule IV, staff are prohibited from engaging in efforts in the Hall of the House or rooms leading thereto to influence Members with regard to the legislation being amended. Staff cannot distribute handouts.

In order to enhance the quality of debate in the House, the Chair would ask Members to minimize the use of handouts.

8. USE OF EQUIPMENT ON HOUSE FLOOR

The Speaker's policy announced on January 27, 2000, as modified by the change in

clause 5 of rule XVII in this Congress, will continue. All Members and staff are reminded of the absolute prohibition contained in the last sentence of clause 5 of rule XVII against the use of a wireless telephone or personal computer upon the floor of the House at any time.

The Chair requests all Members and staff wishing to receive or send wireless telephone messages to do so outside of the chamber, and to deactivate, which means to turn off, any audible ring of wireless phones before entering the Chamber. To this end, the Chair insists upon the cooperation of all Members and staff and instructs the Sergeant-at-Arms, pursuant to clause 3(a) of rule II, to enforce this prohibition.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, your committee appointed on the part of the House to join a like committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled and is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make has performed its duty.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I support the majority leader's comments.

MORNING HOUR DEBATE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during the first session of the 108th Congress: number one, on legislative days of Monday, when the House convenes pursuant to House resolution, the House shall convene 90 minutes earlier than the time otherwise established by that resolution solely for the purpose of conducting morning hour debate; and, number two, on legislative days of Tuesday when the House convenes pursuant to House resolution (a) before May 19, 2003, the House shall convene for morning hour debate 90 minutes earlier than the time otherwise established by that resolution; and (b) after May 19, 2003, the House shall convene for morning hour debate one hour earlier than the time otherwise established by that resolution.

And, three, the time for morning hour debate shall be limited to 30 minutes allocated to each party, except that on Tuesdays after May 19, 2003, the time shall be limited to 25 minutes allocated to each party and may not continue beyond 10 minutes beyond the hour appointed or the resumption of the session of the House; and, four, the form of proceeding to morning hour debate shall be as follows: the prayer by the chaplain, the approval of the Journal, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag shall be postponed until resumption of the session of the House; initial and subsequent recognitions for debate shall alternate between the parties; recognition shall be conferred by the Speaker only pursuant to lists submitted by the majority leader and by the minority leader; no Members may address the House for longer than 5 minutes, except the majority leader,