

pass upon it. In the second place, gentlemen who want to have unanimous consent to get bills passed ought to notify both the Speaker and the minority leader especially, and the majority leader, for that matter, to expedite business. That gives the Chair a fair chance.

Mr. KNUTSON. Mr. Speaker, does that apply to bills on the Private Calendar?

The SPEAKER. If there is no way to get them out except by unanimous consent, of course it would apply to them. The House ought to have a fair show.

CHARGES AGAINST CERTAIN ARMY OFFICERS BY E. L. BICE.

The SPEAKER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution offered by the gentleman from Washington [Mr. JOHNSON].

The question was taken, and the Speaker announced that the ayes seemed to have it.

Mr. CALDWELL. Mr. Speaker, a division.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from New York calls for a division.

The House divided; and there were—ayes 96, noes 84.

So the resolution was agreed to.

SUNDRY CIVIL APPROPRIATION BILL.

Mr. BYRNES of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill H. R. 16104, the sundry civil appropriation bill.

PRINTING HEARINGS ON THE IRISH QUESTION.

Mr. FLOOD rose.

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman from Virginia rise?

Mr. FLOOD. I want to submit a request for unanimous consent.

Mr. BYRNES of South Carolina. Let us know what the request is.

Mr. FLOOD. I want to ask unanimous consent that there be printed 5,000 copies of the hearings on House joint resolution 357, the Gallagher resolution on the Irish question. There has been a great demand for it.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

MILITARY ACADEMY BILL.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I submit a conference report on the Military Academy bill for printing under the rule.

The SPEAKER. You do not have to have it printed in the last six days unless you want to.

Mr. MANN. Let it be reported.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the conference report.

The Clerk read as follows:

Conference report on the bill (H. R. 15462) making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER. Ordered printed under the rule.

VALIDATION OF INFORMAL WAR CONTRACTS.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I submit conference report on the war-contract bill.

The SPEAKER. Is this a complete report?

Mr. DENT. This is a complete report on the war-contract bill.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report it.

The Clerk read as follows:

A bill (H. R. 13274) to provide relief where formal contracts have not been made in the manner required by law.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order on the conference report, hoping that we may be able to put the matter in proper shape. The so-called conferees have not had possession of the papers, which have not left the possession of the Clerk. The Senate was not notified that the House had agreed to a conference, and the House did not agree to a conference. [Laughter.]

Mr. MONDELL. Was everything else regular?

Mr. MANN. It seems to me that in the last six days of the session, when conference reports can be acted upon without being printed first, which is highly proper and sometimes desirable, gentlemen ought not to undertake to bring in conference reports when there has been no conference, when they have not had possession of the papers, and when the Senate has not been notified of the action of the House.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is partly right and partly wrong. The gentleman from Alabama did ask that the House insist on its disagreement and that there be a further conference.

Mr. MANN. Neither the RECORD nor the Journal shows that.

The SPEAKER. The Chair knows that.

Mr. MANN. Then I assume that was not done.

Mr. DENT. I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD and Journal be corrected so as to show the real facts.

Mr. MANN. Those are the real facts.

Mr. DENT. As a matter of fact, I made the motion that the House further insist on its disagreement to the Senate amendments and ask for a further conference. The RECORD seems not to have disclosed the latter part of the motion, but as a matter of fact that was the motion that was made and carried.

The SPEAKER. The House wrangled over that thing for about two hours.

Mr. MANN. The Speaker forgot to appoint the conferees.

The SPEAKER. No; the Speaker did not forget.

Mr. MANN. The Speaker let other business intervene. The reason was that there were no conferees ordered.

The SPEAKER. Well, the Speaker appointed them anyhow.

Mr. MANN. I know the Speaker did, later in the day, but there were no conferees authorized; and whether there were or not, when the House agrees to a conference, under the parliamentary practice, it must send the papers and a message to the Senate stating the fact. That is the authority for the conferees to act. Three estimable gentlemen walk over there, knowing that they will be the conferees, and meet three other distinguished gentlemen from the Senate, and sit down and sign a conference report, when neither knows that the other has been appointed. There has been no authorization.

The SPEAKER. In order to get this thing straight—

Mr. MANN. Why not straighten it out now.

Mr. DENT. I will ask to straighten it out.

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to ask the gentleman from Illinois one question: If the gentleman from Alabama did not ask for conferees, what was the two hours' wrangle about, the most complicated one that has come up in a month?

Mr. MANN. The two hours' wrangle was over instructing the conferees and determining what was to be done. But here is the proof of the pudding: There at the desk is the gentleman who keeps the Journal of the House, who still has possession of the papers.

The SPEAKER. No; the gentleman from Illinois is mistaken about that. The papers were sent over about 12 o'clock.

Mr. MANN. To-day?

The SPEAKER. Yes. [Laughter.]

Mr. MANN. I did suggest to a gentleman connected with the House that they must be sent, but there was no authority in the Journal for it, no authority in the RECORD to put it in the Journal, and I doubted whether anybody would assume authority to do it; but certainly if the papers were sent over at 12 o'clock to-day this conference report was agreed upon long before that. I think we ought to be careful about these formalities, especially during the last six days of the session; but if the message has now been sent to the Senate I have no special objection.

Mr. DENT. Of course, the gentleman from Illinois knows that very often before the papers come over the conferees meet informally before they reach any formal agreement. I now renew my request.

Mr. MANN. I have no objection to that course.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Alabama asks unanimous consent to make the Journal and the RECORD both conform to the fact that the conferees were asked for and appointed.

Mr. MANN. Of course, I do not think that was the fact, but I have no objection to the Journal showing it.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The conference report will be printed under the rule.

SUNDRY CIVIL APPROPRIATIONS.

Mr. BYRNES of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H. R. 16104) making appropriations for the sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and for other purposes, with Mr. GARNER in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN. The clerk will resume the reading of the bill.