

**Records of the Committee on Rules
RG.233.95.RU
95th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	Records of the Committee on Rules
Date	1977-1978
Extent	9.6 Cubic feet (24 archival boxes)
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Rules is among the oldest standing committees in the House, having been first formally constituted on April 2, 1789. The Committee is commonly known as “The Speaker’s Committee” because it is the mechanism that the Speaker uses to maintain control of the House Floor, and was chaired by the Speaker until 1910. The Rules Committee has two broad categories of jurisdiction: special orders for the consideration of legislation (known as “special rules” or “rules”) and original jurisdiction matters. A special rule provides the terms and conditions of debate on a measure or matter, consideration of which constitutes the bulk of the work of the Rules Committee. The Committee also considers original jurisdiction measures, which commonly represent changes to the standing rules of the House, or measures that contain special rules, such as the expedited procedures in trade legislation.

Scope and Contents note

The records document the work of the committee during the 95th Congress. The records are primarily the published work product of the committee, including bills, transcripts, and reports.

Arrangement note

The records are arranged into bill files, committee papers, correspondence, hearing transcripts, minutes, official communications, and subcommittee files. Any series arrangement is noted therein.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Rule VII

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules: (b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Collection Inventory

Bill files (4.5 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Measures referred directly to the committee, original jurisdiction measures reported, rules granted.

Committee papers (2 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Publications of the Committee, survey of committee activities, legislative calendar, rules of the committee, requests for rules, requests for original jurisdiction measures, meeting notices.

Correspondence (0.5 archival box)

Scope and Contents note

Congressional correspondence of original jurisdiction measures.

Hearing transcripts (14 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Hearing transcripts for full committee only.

Arrangement note

Minutes

Arranged chronologically.

Minutes (1 archival box)

Scope and Contents note

Hearing minutes, including notes on motions, votes, etc., taken during hearings of Committee on Rules.

Official communications (0.5 archival box)

Scope and Contents note

Executive communications, petitions, and memorials.

Subcommittee files (1.5 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Records of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Select Committees and Subcommittee on the Rules and Organization of the House, including correspondence files, meeting notices, and actions taken.