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Pathfinder Series

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Congressional Record (and its predecessors)

INTRODUCTION

The Congressional Record is the official record of proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when congress is in session. At the back of each daily issue is the “Daily Digest” which summarizes the day’s floor and committee activities. The publication of Congressional Record (CR) started in 1873. Before this time, the debates of Congress, beginning with the inauguration of the First United States Congress on March 4, 1789, were reported in different publications. These are:

- ✓ Annals of Congress (1789-1824) covered First Congress through 18th Congress First Session
- ✓ Register of Debates- 1824-1837 started with Second Session of the 18th Congress through First Session of the 25th Congress
- ✓ Congressional Globe (1833-1873) 23rd to 42nd Congress

All these debates are available in print and microfiche. They are also available in electronic format. This pathfinder focuses on CR in print and list electronic resources. The web addresses are provided to the following electronic resources: HeinOnline, ProQuest Congressional, Century of Lawmaking project of the Library of Congress, FDsys and Congress.gov.

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

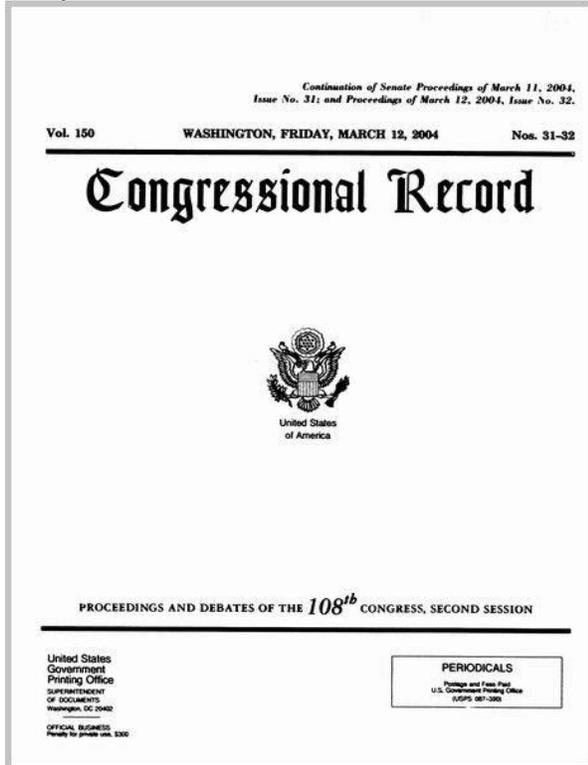
The Congressional Record consists of four sections:

- Daily Digest Section- the section of the Congressional Record that summarizes the daily routine proceedings
- House Section- the section of the Congressional Record that contains the proceedings and debates of the U.S. House of Representatives
- Senate Section- the section of the Congressional Record that contains the proceedings and debates of the U.S. Senate

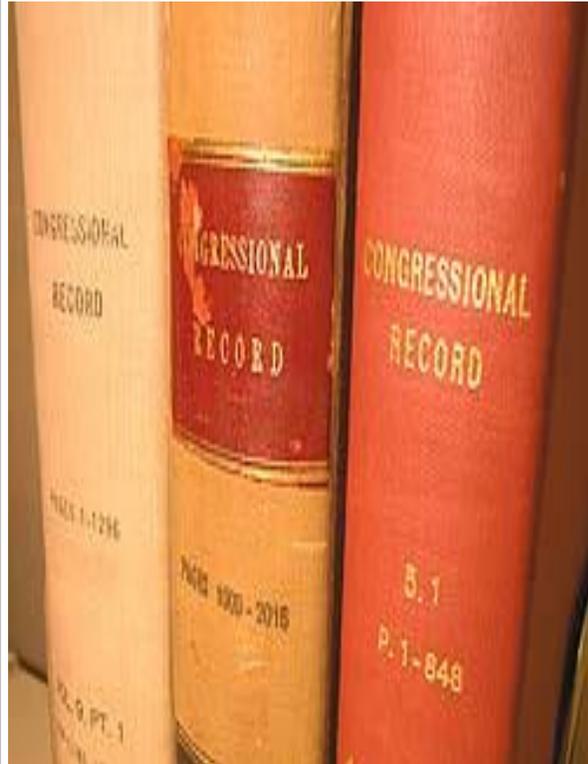
- Extension of Remarks Section- The section of the Congressional Record that contains tributes, statements, and other information made by members on the floor of the House or Senate

There are two types of CR: bound CR and daily edition CR

Daily Edition CR



Bound CR



Sample A: Bound Congressional Record

90	CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE	<i>January 5, 2001</i>
<p>In the end, this resolution and the words that comprise it in its three pages are not going to do the job. Any Senator who is sufficiently disgruntled by this agreement, who figures that they will go their own path, has the ability to continue to do things as we have done them in the last few years.</p>	<p>It has been said that death is the great leveler. But Alan Cranston's accomplishments in life have clearly set him apart.</p> <p>Nearly seven decades ago, a young American journalist from California published an unexpurgated version of Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" "My</p>	<p>many a sense I believe that my work on the environment is probably the longest-lasting work I have accomplished here.</p> <p>When you deal with a social issue, or a war and peace issue, or an economic issue, or whatever the results, the consequences are fleeting. Whatever you accomplish is soon changed, and often what you have done leads to new problems that then have to be dealt</p>

Sample B: Daily Congressional Record

Daily Congressional Record page covering the same issue as above: note the differences in page number and the "S" preceding the page in daily CR.

January 5, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S43

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

ORGANIZING A 50/50 SENATE

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I join the number of colleagues who have spoken on the floor with respect to this agreement. I share both the respect and admiration that have been expressed for the leadership for the work they have done in order to bring us here.

Particularly, I know the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. LOTT, worked hard within his caucus and had to be particularly persuasive in order to reach this accord.

I think this agreement respects the outcome of the election this year. It is a reflection of the closeness of the division in the Presidential race. It is, in my judgment, a fair and accurate reflection of what happened in the Senate itself with the losses that took place on one side of the aisle and a result that ended up with 50 Senators in both parties.

I have argued since day one that the only fair way, and the only sensible way, to try to bring the country together and set the stage to be able to reach the compromises we needed to reach was to reflect the representation of the Senate as a whole in the committee structures.

Some on the other side argued for some period of time that that is not the way it should work. We heard some people talking a few moments ago about how, if you are responsible for driving the train, you then need the extra vote in order to be able to guarantee that you can drive the train.

The problem with that argument all along is, that is not what the representation of the Senate itself reflects.

The second problem with the argument is that it relied essentially on the notion that, by having an extra vote, you somehow have an added power beyond the power of compromise, beyond the power of logic, beyond the power of the merits of your argument, that you have a power of the extra votes simply to drive your will through. We have seen that in operation in the last few years in the Senate, frankly. I think for many of us it has been a very negative and, frankly, a very unproductive experience.

The last few years saw us avoiding the rules of the Senate in order to drive through by virtue of the fact that there were more votes on one side. In the end, you may be able to do that on occasion, whether it is the reconciliation rules that allow you to do that, or it is a particular conference rule, or the Rule XXVIII issues we have had

over the last years. Those allowed you to do it.

But I know the distinguished Senator from West Virginia would give the most eloquent argument in the Senate for the fact that that didn't necessarily serve the interests of the Senate nor even the interests of the country.

What we have achieved today I believe stands to set the stage for the ability of the Senate to serve the interests of the country.

Is there something of a sense of loss for some by virtue of this agreement? I think yes. I think that is reflected in the sort of difficulty that was presented in getting here to this moment. But in the end, I think the logic was simply so powerful that 50/50 on both sides means you divide the Senators and their committees according to that number.

I admire and respect the Senator from Texas, who is one of the brightest and most articulate people in the Senate and who read from the Constitution about the powers of the Vice President to cast a vote to break a tie. Indeed, that is absolutely true. But I think most constitutional experts would tell you that is sort of the vote of last resort—that it never contemplated that the Vice President of the United States is somehow going to be represented on every single committee, and then he is going to go to each committee and cast a vote. It contemplates, if there is a tie and ultimately there is the inability of the Senate to work its will of compromise, that in that case the Vice President has the ability to cast his vote. Now the Vice President will still have that ability. That is respected in this agreement.

What this agreement achieves, which I think is perhaps the most important missing ingredient of the Senate, was reflected in the comments of the Senator from West Virginia, our former leader and President pro tempore, who turned to his colleague on the Appropriations Committee and talked about trust. He talked about respect. Those committees that work the best in the Senate don't need this resolution. Those chairmen of either party who want to make their committee work effectively don't need a resolution to know the best way to get something through the Senate and through the House is to be inclusive, not exclusive.

So, in fact, we in the minority were remarkably forbearing in the last year or two in not pressing the full advantage of the rules that we might have pressed in order to stop the Senate cold in its tracks in order to disrupt in the many ways possible, using the rules of parliamentary procedure, to require our colleagues to be repeatedly on the floor of the Senate to vote. In many ways, we were acquiescent, and some might blame us for having been so. I think it was out of respect for the process and out of the belief that there is a better way to get business done here.

What I believe this agreement now does is set the stage for us to be able in

the Senate to grow the respect and the trust about which the Senator from West Virginia talked. It gives Members the opportunity and requires Members in committee to look to the other side of the aisle to try to build the consensus necessary.

We all understand in that process we will never necessarily get 100 of our colleagues or 99 of our colleagues, but we can build enough of a consensus that we can send legislation to the floor with votes of 16-4 or 18-0 or a sufficient number at least to recognize that there has been a respect for the views of both sides rather than a willingness to simply write a piece of legislation in conference without even including one Member of the Senate of the other side of the aisle and then bring it to the floor and expect people to be happy and expect to pass something that doesn't invite a veto or that somehow has the consent of the American people.

The American people are why we are here, all of us. I think this agreement today respects what the American people said on election day. I think it respects this institution. I think it gives everyone an opportunity, long awaited, to do a better job of being Senators and allowing this body to be the great deliberative entity that it is supposed to be.

In the end, this resolution and the words that comprise it in its three pages are not going to do the job. Any Senator who is sufficiently disgruntled by this agreement, who figures that they will go their own path, has the ability to continue to do things as we have done them in the last few years. But I think this is a message to all Members that we have an opportunity to try to legislate in the best sense of the word, to find the compromise. There is no way this will work without that compromise. All Members need to understand that.

I hope in the next days the American people will see the Senate set the example that we all want, and I know we can.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, let me express my appreciation to the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts. He is a Senator of enormous ability and great talents. One of those talents is the capability of eloquence in such an impressive and persuasive manner. I want to thank him for his words today.

The President-elect can be very grateful to the two leaders of this body today and to the Senators who have acceded to the needs and the requirements of the moment to give up a little; everyone gives up a little. We are waiving some rules; we are temporarily changing some rules in this resolution. In the interests of going forward in the Nation and in the interests of making it possible for this institution to rise to the expectations of the American people and accede to their will, this resolution is really a unique instrument.

In the end, this resolution and the words that comprise it in its three pages are not going to do the job. Any Senator who is sufficiently disgruntled by this agreement, who figures that they will go their own path, has the ability to continue to do things as we have done them in the last few years. But I think this is a message to all Members that we have an opportunity to try to legislate in the best sense of the word, to find the compromise. There is no way this will work without that compromise. All Members need to understand that.

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Here are some of the main distinctions between them:

- Bound CR is the permanent edition, and when available is cited in legal publications. Its publication is always several years behind.
- The daily edition, like the bound edition, is divided into four sections: Daily Digest, Extension of Remarks, House and Senate Proceedings. The difference is that in the daily edition, each of the sections is numbered separately and prefaced with letter abbreviation of each of the sections: D = Daily digest; E = Extension of Remarks; S = Senate; and H = House. These are section identifiers. The numbering system is a combination of the section identifier and the numeral. Examples are: D1 = page 1 of the Daily Digest, E1 = page 1 of Extensions of Remarks page, S1 = page 1 of the Senate section, and H1 = page 1 of House section. To search for a page in the daily edition the page number must be in proper form. Examples: “page H98” indicates the House of Representative section; “page S99” refers to the Senate section; “page E97” refers to Extensions of Remarks section and “page D96” refers to Daily Digest. The daily edition contains more current information.
- It is important to determine which database you should search based on your research preferences and needs. This distinction is important because the daily edition is eventually edited and re-bound into the permanent edition. In its permanent form, individual sections are not numbered separately and the section identifiers are removed. The pagination is continuous – from the first to the last volume. For example, “page 9999” refers to bound CR page number. It can never refer to the daily CR because of the missing section identifier. The Daily Digest, as part of the bound CR, remains a separate volume and retains its section identifier.
- Another distinction between the daily CR and bound CR is the citation format. R 13.5 of the Bluebook instructs that citation should be to the bound CR; daily CR should be cited when contents have not been incorporated into the bound edition. Accordingly, the following citation formats are recommended by the Bluebook:
 - 133 CONG. REC. 23, 31982 (1987)
 - 149 CONG. REC. S15695, (daily ed. Nov. 24, 2003) (statement of Sen. Jeffords)

Congressional Record Online Research

Database	Content	URL
ProQuest Congressional	Committee Prints & Misc. Publications 2004-Present, CRS Reports 2004-Present, Hearings 2004-Present, House & Senate Documents 2004-Present, House & Senate Reports 2004-Present, Serial Set 2004-Present	http://congressional.proquest.com/profiles/gis/search/basic/basicsearch
HeinOnline	Bound Editions of Congressional Record, 1873 to 2010. Also includes Annals of Congress, Register of Debates & Congressional Globe. Daily Edition of Congressional Record, 101st Congress (1990) to present.	http://heinonline.org/HOL/Welcome
FDsys	Daily Edition, 1994 to present. Bound editions, 1999-2001	FDsys.gov

Free and online resources for researching Congressional debates

a. Annals of Congress, Register of Debates, Congressional Globe & Congressional Record (1789-1875)

These are available online as part of the Century of Lawmaking project of the Library of Congress and could be searched online:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hlawquery.html>

b. Bound Congressional Record Online

Free online access to bound Congressional Record is limited to volumes 145(1999)-147(2001) on FDsys: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecordbound/index.html>.

c. Daily Congressional Record Online

Large part of daily Congressional Record (v.141 (1995)-156 (2010)) is available online (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/advanced.html>)

Each Congressional session, as is the case with Daily Digest, is covered by an alphabetical index which is based on the subject matter or first name. Memorials are, however, indexed based on full name of the subject. Because the index is based on first name, it is the easiest way to find remarks and other speeches of a member of Congress. If the subject matter (or party's name is known) use the index

- History of bills and resolution

History of Bills and Resolutions are contained within the Index volume. It contains a summary of actions on bills and resolutions. Citations are to the bound Congressional Record; for the more recent, citations are to the daily edition of the CR.