

Congressional Record



Reference Division
Watson Memorial Library
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches LA 71497

27 June 2006

The Congressional Record, as it is known today, began with the 43rd Congress, First Session in 1873. Before that time, the proceedings of the Congress were published under various other titles:

1. Annals Of Congress, 1789-1824. Covers the 1st Congress, 1st Session through the 1st Session of the 18th Congress
2. Register Of Debates, 1824-1837. Covers the 2nd Session of the 18th Congress through the 1st Session of the 25th Congress.
3. Congressional Globe, 1833-1837. Covers the 23rd Congress through the 42nd Congress.
4. Congressional Record, 1873 – Present. Covers the 43rd Congress to the Present.

The Government Printing Office publishes two editions of the Congressional Record:

1. The daily edition is issued each day that Congress is in session and contains a verbatim record of the debates and proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives. An index is issued every two weeks and includes a history of bills and resolutions.
2. The bound edition is published following each session of Congress and replaces the daily edition and its indices. The permanent bound edition consists of the text of the proceedings and the Daily Digest, revised, rearranged and printed without breaks. Its pagination, which is continuous throughout the session, differs from that of the daily edition.

How To Use the Congressional Record

The Congressional Record consists of four sections:

1. The Proceedings of the Senate
2. The Proceedings of the House of Representatives
3. The Extensions of Remarks which contains matter not a part of the spoken debates and proceedings
4. The Daily Digest of activity in the Congress

Each section is paged separately and continuously during each session. Each page in each section is preceded by a letter prefix:

- "S" for Senate
- "H" for House of Representatives
- "E" for Extension of Remarks
- "D" for Daily Digest

When checking a citation in the Congressional Record, first ascertain which edition is referred to. In addition to the difference in pagination, there may be variations in the text of the proceedings arising from a Member's privilege to revise his or her remarks or the right of either house to expunge from the permanent edition material, which appeared in the daily edition

Texts of bills and resolutions introduced or laws enacted are not usually reported in the Congressional Record. Although much of the work on bills is done in committee, a summary of committee activities appears only in the Daily Digest section.

Extensions Of Remarks

The section called Extension Of Remarks regularly contains material not germane to legislation under debate, but which a Member wishes to have printed in the Congressional Record. Until the 90th Congress, 2nd Session, this section was called the Appendix. Separately paged, it formed a part of

both the daily and the permanent editions from the 75th Congress, 1st Session through the 83rd Congress, 2nd Session.

Beginning with the 77th Congress, 1st Session, and each page number was preceded by the designation "A." With the 84th Congress, 1st Session, the Appendix pages were omitted from the permanent edition. This, after 1954, material in the Appendix could only be consulted in the daily edition. The Index to the permanent edition, however, cited references to appendix material appearing in the daily edition. In order to make these materials available, the Library of Congress created an artificial Appendix for the permanent edition by binding the Appendix pages from the daily edition and shelving them in proper sequence with the permanent edition.

After the Appendix was omitted from the permanent edition, materials considered germane to legislation were inserted in that edition at the point where the legislation was under discussion. Beginning with the 90th Congress, 2nd Session, and the Extensions of Remarks appears in the permanent edition of the Congressional Record.

Another change made at the beginning of the 90th Congress, 2nd Session, is the alphabetic listing on the last page of each daily edition of the Members whose extensions of remarks appear in that issue. Page numbers of the remarks are included.

Daily Digest

The Daily Digest contains the legislative program for the day together with a list of congressional committee meetings and hearings, and the place of meeting and the subject matter. A brief summary of the congressional activities of the previous day is also included.

Index

The Index in both the semi-monthly and permanent editions is made up of two parts:

1. An Index to the Proceedings which includes material in the Extensions of Remarks.
History of Bills and Resolutions arranged by bill and resolution number. This History lists only those bills, which have been reported out of committee or have progressed beyond that point.

The Index is arranged by subject or by name. If the information desired concerns the progress of a bill or resolution, its number may first be found under subject or name in the Index to the Proceedings. In the History of a reported bill, page references to the introduction, committee report debate, amendment and enactment (or defeat) of the measure may be found.

Congressional Record Holdings in Watson Library

Annals Of Congress, 1789-1824. Ten reels of microfilm covering the 1st Congress through the 1st Session of the 18th Congress. Held in the Media/Serials Division on the second floor.

Register Of Debates, 1824-1837. Six reels of microfilm covering the 2nd Session of the 18th Congress through the 1st Session of the 25th Congress. Held in the Media/Serials Division on the second floor.

Congressional Globe, 1833-1873. 38 Reels of microfilm that cover the 23rd Congress through the 42nd Congress are held in the Media/Serials Division on the second floor.

Congressional Record, 1833-Present in various formats:

- *Bound – Watson Library KF 35 .U58*
 - 53rd Congress 1st Session, 1897 through 83rd Congress 1st Session, 1953
 - 90th Congress 2nd Session, 1968 through 95th Congress 1st Session, 1977
- *Unbound – Documents Reading Room X1.1A*
 - 1993 v.130, no.1 to Current
 - Index volumes are marked with yellow
- *Microfilm – Media/Serials Division*
 - 83rd Congress 2nd Session, 1954 through 90th Congress, 1st Session, 1968
- *Microfiche – Documents Reading Room*
 - Class number X – housed in separate microfiche drawers
 - 95th Congress to current
- *CD-ROM – Reference Room*
 - 99th Congress 1st Session, 1985