

RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S CABINET

Language: Modern English will be the official language of the Committee. Remarks made in any other language must either be clear in meaning to all present, or be translated immediately and accurately.

Attire: Delegates will wear Western business attire during all sessions. Era-appropriate excessive facial hair shall be allowed and encouraged.

Conduct: Delegates should conduct themselves in a diplomatic manner. This includes showing courtesy to the staff and to other delegates, respecting others who have been given time to speak, and refraining from using vulgarity during committee sessions.

The President: It is the President's duty to direct debate, call upon delegates to speak, and to have final say on motions decided on by the committee. The President may set speaking time and rule motions out of order or dilatory. The President also reserves the right to declare topics to be non-substantive. He shall, in accordance with long-standing tradition, be addressed at all times as Mr. President or Sir.

The President's Representative: The President may, at his discretion, delegate authority to a member of his staff for a short period of time. That person shall be addressed as Mr. or Madam Chair, and all listed powers of the President in committee shall be possessed by the designated representative.

Quorum: Committee session may begin when at least one-half of the delegates are present. If a delegate believes the necessary quorum is not present, he or she may request a quorum count. Otherwise, quorum will be assumed.

Roll Call: At the beginning of each session the chair will take a roll call of all delegates. Delegates arriving late should send a notice to the chair, and will not be eligible to speak or vote until such notice is given and they are added to the roll.

Agenda: The Committee has no set agenda. Thus, there will be no debate on setting the agenda. Moreover, discussion may flow freely between topics without a formal vote, but should be germane to the issues before the cabinet.

Speeches: No delegate may speak without first being recognized by the President. The President reserves the right to call a delegate to order if his or her remarks are not germane to the issues before the cabinet.

Speakers' List: The Committee has no Speakers' List. Delegates will be chosen by the chair to speak. Typically, the chair will ask for delegates wishing to speak, delegates will raise their placards, and the chair will select one.

Speaking Time: Speaking times are determined at the discretion of the chair. He will, however, consider seriously the recommendations of the Committee.

Yields: There are no yields, as there is no Speakers' List.

Comments: There are no comments.

Point of Personal Privilege: If for some reason a delegate is impaired from participating in the debate, he or she may rise to a point of personal privilege and request that the impairment be rectified. Examples include requesting that the speaker talk louder because he or she cannot be heard, requesting that the temperature of the room be changed, or requesting that more water be brought into the committee room. A point of personal privilege may also be used to increase or decrease speaking times. Points of personal privilege may interrupt speeches, but should only do so in the most serious circumstances, such as when a speaker cannot be heard.

Point of Order: If these rules are violated in some way, a delegate may rise to a point of order. Such a point may interrupt a speech, but only if the present speaker has broken the rules during the current speech.

Point of Inquiry: If a delegate has a question concerning the procedures of the Committee, he or she may rise to a point of inquiry.

Voting: Once a motion to vote has been introduced and accepted by the Chair, a simple majority is required to pass a directive, except in certain exceptions provided for in these rules. Abstentions are in order. All votes must pass with a majority of delegates voting.

Directives: Directives are the method by which the executive branch of United States Government takes action. Directives may take many forms, but should conform to the power enumerated to the United States Government in the Constitution. Directives should be written down by cabinet members wishing to propose them, at which point they will be brought before the committee for debate and a vote, or to be tabled by a vote.

Exceptions and Limitations:

- a. The President shall not call on civilian members of the Executive Branch to take actions that both Chief Justice Taney and Attorney General Bates deem not to be legally sound, unless a 2/3 vote of the other cabinet members overrule them. Once a motion to vote has been accepted by the chair, the Chief Justice and Attorney General may rise to indicate their official position that the directive set to be voted on is not legally sound.
- b. Despite the presence of Chief Justice Taney and many leading members of Congress on the committee, the committee shall not issue specific directives calling on either of the other branches of government to take action. They may, however, issue more general directives appealing on Congress or filing an amicus brief in the Courts for them to independently take certain actions.
- c. President Lincoln believes strongly in letting military men run the military, and so will not attempt to direct troop movements or otherwise take actions that interfere with the ability of the generals to run the war, except for issuing broad directives in defense of the Capitol or for authorizing general war strategies, such as total war, war by attrition, the Anaconda plan, etc.

Motions: Motions can only be made when no speech is taking place. A motion must be approved by the President before it can be acted upon. The following motions are listed in order of precedence:

a. **Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus:** If no speech is taking place, and a cabinet member believes the committee would benefit from a break in formal debate, he or she may motion for an unmoderated caucus. Caucuses give cabinet members a chance to discuss matters outside the confines of formal debate, but are expected to be just as productive as formal debate. Cabinet members making a motion for a caucus are expected to propose a length of time as well as a purpose. If approved and accepted by the President, a motion for an unmoderated caucus requires a simple majority to pass.

b. **Motion for a Moderated Caucus:** If no speech is taking place, and a cabinet member believes the committee would benefit from limited speaking times and directed debate, he or she may motion for a moderated caucus. In a moderated caucus, speaking times will be set by majority vote and approval by the chair and the cabinet will restrict debate to a specific issue or course of action. Cabinet members making a motion for a moderated caucus are expected to propose a length of time as well as a subject for the caucus. If approved and accepted by the President, a motion for a moderated caucus requires a simple majority to pass.

c. **Motion to Introduce a Directive:** If no speech is taking place, and a cabinet member has completed work on a directive, either by himself or with others, he may introduce the directive so that it may be debated formally. When this motion is made, the cabinet member is expected to have the directive written out, and to read the directive verbatim to the cabinet. If at any point it becomes apparent to the President that the directive is either unproductive or not germane to the topics at hand, he may declare the directive to be out of order and it will not be formally debated.

d. **Motion to Vote on a Directive:** If a cabinet member believes that a directive has been thoroughly debated, he may call upon the cabinet to vote upon it so that the President may enact it. This motion may only be made when no speech is taking place. If the President wants to see more debate on the directive, he may rule this motion out of order at the present time. If this motion is found to be in order, it requires a simple majority to pass, and the cabinet will move immediately to a vote upon the directive.

e. **Motion to Suspend the Meeting:** If there are fewer than 15 minutes left in a cabinet meeting, and there is no speech taking place, a cabinet member may move to suspend the meeting if he feels that debate is no longer productive. The motion may be declared out of order at the discretion of the President. If found in order, this motion requires a simple majority to pass. When this motion passes, all cabinet business is suspended until the next predetermined meeting.

f. **Motion to Adjourn:** If there are fewer than 15 minutes before the end of the final cabinet meeting at this conference, and there is no speech taking place, a cabinet member may move to adjourn if he feels that debate is no longer productive. The motion may be declared out of order at the discretion of the President. If found in order, this motion requires a simple majority to pass. When

this motion passes, it formally concludes all business of President Lincoln's cabinet at this conference.

Voting: All votes will be taken by a raising of placards.

Call to Vote: If the President, or the Director, feels that a motion has been substantially debated, he may call upon the cabinet to vote on the directive, even if no member has motioned for a vote. When such a call is made, the cabinet will immediately vote upon the directive.

Amendments: Directives may be amended at the discretion of the members of the Committee. Amendments opposed by the author of the original directive will be subject to a majority vote. Amendments agreed to by the author of the original directive shall be treated as friendly and adopted summarily.

Independent Action: All members of the cabinet possess portfolio of some sort, and are both able and expected to make use of it. Independent actions should not be used to implement actions denied by the full committee, and the respective staff of each cabinet member will provide guidance for what actions are appropriate. Examples of appropriate actions include direct communication with foreign governments by diplomats; voting, introducing legislation, and holding hearings by legislators and committee chairs; obtaining information on political moods and trends within appropriate spheres, and generally obtaining what information the delegate's position is privy to. This list is meant for guidance only, and is neither comprehensive nor necessarily a guarantee that the above actions will be available in all circumstances.