The Committee appointed to wait on the President of the United States, and confer with him on the mode of communication proper to be pursued between him, and the Senate in the formation of Treaties, and making appointments to Offices, –

Report,

That they have waited on the President of the United States, have conferred with him on the subject committed to them, and have collected from him the following sentiments. – That the President being vested by the Constitution with the Power of making Treaties, and appointing Officers, with the advice and consent of the Senate; when those Powers are exercised, the Senate are evidently a Council only to the President, though their concurrence is necessary to his acts. That it seems incident to this relation between them that not only the time, but the place, and manner of consultation should lie with the President, who may meet the Senate in the Senate Chamber, or convene them to his own house according to circumstances.

That whenever the Government shall have Buildings of it's own, an Executive Chamber will no doubt be provided, where the Senate will generally attend the President: the place may depend on the nature of the business. –

Document courtesy of National Archives. Report of the committee appointed to confer with the President on the mode of communication proper to be pursued between him and the Senate in the formation of treaties and making appointments to offices, August 20, 1789; (SEN 1A-D1) Records of the U.S. Senate.

That the opinions both of the President, and Senate as to the proper manner may be changed by experience. That in some kinds of business, it may be found best for the President to make his propositions in person; in others by written Message. — —

That on some occasions it may be most convenient that the President should attend the deliberations and decisions of the Senate on his propositions; on others that he should not; or that he should not attend the whole of the time. That in other cases, as in Treaties of a complicated nature, it may happen that he send his propositions in writing, and attend the Senate in person, after they shall have had sufficient time for consultation. That in the appointment of foreign Ministers it may be proper that the President should consult the Senate in person, not only respecting the Nomination, but the quality of the Officer to be appointed. That many other varieties as to the mode may be suggested by practice.

The Committee therefore recommend that the Senate should accommodate their Rules to the uncertainty of the particular mode, and place that may be adopted:

And for that purpose submit the following Resolutions to the Senate.

That when Nominations shall be made in writing by the President of the United States to the Senate, a future day shall be assigned, unless the ~~House~~ Senate unanimously direct otherwise, for taking them into consider-

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ation. That when the President of the United States shall meet the Senate in the Senate Chamber, the President of the Senate shall have a Chair on the floor, be considered as at the head of the Senate, and his Chair shall be assigned to the President of the United States. That when the Senate shall be convened by the President of the United States to any other place, the President of the Senate, and Senators shall attend at the place appointed. The Secretary of the Senate shall also attend, to take the minutes of the Senate.

That all Questions shall be put by the President of the Senate, either in the presence, or absence of the President of the United States: and the Senators shall signify their assent, or dissent, by answering Viva voce Ay, or No.

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