

SEC. XXXIX—THE QUESTION

§ 489. Putting the question. The question is to be put first on the affirmative, and then on the negative side.

Clause 6 of rule I provides more fully for putting the question.

§ 490. Effect of putting the question in ending debate. After the Speaker has put the affirmative part of the question, any Member who has not spoken before to the question may rise and speak before the negative be put; because it is no full question till the negative part be put. *Scob.*, 23; *2 Hats.*, 73.

After the Chair has put the affirmative part of the question, any Member who seeks to debate the matter or offer a motion may be recognized (V, 5925; June 22, 2006, p. —), and such recognition is not subject to appeal (June 22, 2006, p. —). On one occasion, the Chair refused to entertain a motion to lay on the table after putting the affirmative part of the pending question where the Chair had affirmed the admissibility of that motion before putting the main question, and that motion nevertheless was not then offered (Sept. 20, 1979, p. 25512). Where not pertinent to the pending parliamentary situation, a parliamentary inquiry regarding whether the Chair heard the ayes on a prematurely-commenced vote by voice was not entertained (June 22, 2006, p. —).

§ 491. Informal putting of the question. But in small matters, and which are of course, such as receiving petitions, reports, withdrawing motions, reading papers, &c., the Speaker most commonly supposes the consent of the House where no objection is expressed, and does not give them the trouble of putting the question formally. *Scob.*, 22; *2 Hats.*, 79, 2, 87; *5 Grey*, 129; *9 Grey*, 301.