

George W. Bush Presidential Library

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TABLE 3-5

Addresses to the Senate

CONGRESS/DATE	DIGNITARY	COUNTRY
1st Congress Aug. 22, 1789	President George Washington ¹	United States
64th Congress Jan. 22, 1917	President Woodrow Wilson ²	United States
65th Congress May 1, 1917	*René Viviani, vice premier of the Council of Ministers, minister of Justice	France
May 8, 1917	*Arthur James Balfour, member of Parliament, principal secretary of state for foreign affairs	United Kingdom
May 31, 1917	*Ferdinando di' Savoia, prince of Udine	Italy
June 22, 1917	*Ludovic Moncheur, baron, chief of the political bureau of the Belgian foreign office at Havre	Belgium
June 26, 1917	*Boris A. Bakhmetieff, ambassador to the United States ³	Russia
Aug. 30, 1917	*Kikujirō Ishii, viscount, diplomat	Japan
Jan. 5, 1918	*Dr. Milenko R. Vesnitch, diplomat	Serbia
Sept. 24, 1918	Jules Jusserand, ambassador to the United States ⁴	France
Sept. 30, 1918	President Woodrow Wilson ⁵	United States
66th Congress July 10, 1919	President Woodrow Wilson ⁶	United States
Oct. 28, 1919	*King Albert	Belgium
67th Congress July 12, 1921	President Warren G. Harding ⁷	United States

*Also appeared separately before the House of Representatives, either on this date or one close to it.

¹ Seeking Senate's advice and consent on treaty with the southern Indians. President Washington also returned to the Senate on August 24 for further discussion of the treaty, but the Senate's insistence on referring the matter to a committee and on altering some provisions of the proposed treaty led him to conduct all future treaty business in writing. Subsequent presidents until Woodrow Wilson continued the precedent of sending written messages regarding appointments and treaties, rather than visiting the Senate.

² Planning ahead for peace.

³ Bakhmetieff represented the provisional government of Russia set up after the overthrow of the monarchy in March 1917 and recognized by the United States. The Bolsheviks took over in November 1917.

⁴ This address and reception was in conjunction with the presentation to the Senate of two Sevres vases in appreciation of the United States' involvement in World War I. They are today in the Senate lobby, just off the Senate floor.

⁵ Support of woman suffrage.

⁶ Versailles treaty.

⁷ Adjusted compensation for veterans of the World War. Senators objected to President Harding's speech as an unconstitutional effort to interfere with the deliberations of the Senate, and Harding did not repeat his visit.

TABLE 3-5—CONTINUED

CONGRESS/DATE	DIGNITARY	COUNTRY
72d Congress May 31, 1932	President Herbert Hoover ⁸	United States
76th Congress May 8, 1939	*President Anastasio Somoza, general	Nicaragua
77th Congress May 11, 1942	*President Manuel Prado	Peru
June 4, 1942	*President Manuel L. Quezon	Commonwealth of the Philippines ⁹
June 15, 1942	*King George II ¹⁰	Greece
June 25, 1942	*King Peter II ¹⁰	Yugoslavia
Aug. 6, 1942	Queen Wilhelmina ¹⁰	Netherlands
Nov. 25, 1942	*President Carlos Alberto Arroyo del Rio	Ecuador
78th Congress May 6, 1943	*President Enrique Penaranda, general	Bolivia
May 13, 1943	*President Edvard Beneš ¹⁰	Czechoslovakia
June 10, 1943	*President Higinio Moríñigo M.	Paraguay
Jan. 20, 1944	*President Isaías Medina Angarita, general	Venezuela
79th Congress July 2, 1945	President Harry S. Truman ¹¹	United States
Sept. 10, 1945	*General Jonathan M. Wainwright ¹²	United States
81st Congress Aug. 9, 1949	*President Elpidio Quirino	Philippines
Oct. 13, 1949	*Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru	India
April 13, 1950	President Gabriel Gonzalez-Videla	Chile
May 4, 1950	*Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan	Pakistan
Aug. 1, 1950	*Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies	Australia
82d Congress July 2, 1951	Aisuki Okamoto, member of the Diet	Japan
Aug. 23, 1951	Tentaro Kosaka, member of the Diet	Japan

⁸ Also appeared separately before the House of Representatives, either on this date or one close to it.

⁹ The emergency character of the economic situation in the U.S.

⁹ At this time, the Philippines was still a possession of the United States, although it had been made a self-governing commonwealth in 1935, in preparation for full independence in 1946. From 1909 to 1916, Quezon had served in the U.S. House of Representatives as the resident commissioner from the Philippines.

¹⁰ In exile.

¹¹ Senate in executive session on topic of United Nations Charter.

¹² Former prisoner of war (Japan).

TABLE 3-5—CONTINUED

CONGRESS/DATE	DIGNITARY	COUNTRY
83d Congress Nov. 17, 1954	Vice President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan ¹³	India
84th Congress Mar. 16, 1955	*Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies	Australia
Mar. 30, 1955	*Prime Minister Mario Scelba	Italy
May 4, 1955	*Prime Minister Luang Phibun Songgram	Thailand
June 30, 1955	*Prime Minister U Nu	Burma
Jan. 5, 1956	President-elect Juscelino Kubitschek de Oliveira	Brazil
Feb. 2, 1956	*Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden	United Kingdom
Mar. 15, 1956	*Prime Minister John A. Costello	Ireland
April 30, 1956	Vice President Joao Goulart	Brazil
85th Congress Feb. 27, 1957	*Guy Mollet, president of the Council of Ministers ¹⁴	France
May 28, 1957	*Chancellor Konrad Adenauer	Federal Republic of Germany
June 20, 1957	*Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi	Japan
July 11, 1957	*Prime Minister Husseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy	Pakistan
June 25, 1958	*Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Daud	Afghanistan
July 29, 1958	*Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani (also foreign minister)	Italy
91st Congress Nov. 13, 1969	*President Richard M. Nixon ¹⁵	United States
93d Congress Dec. 19, 1974	Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller ¹⁶	United States
101st Congress April 6, 1989	Former Senators Thomas F. Eagleton and Howard H. Baker, Jr. ¹⁷	United States

*Also appeared separately before the House of Representatives, either on this date or one close to it.

¹³ Presentation of new ivory gavel to the Senate.

¹⁴ Today, the president of the Council is called the prime minister.

¹⁵ Executive-legislative branch relations and Vietnam policy.

¹⁶ Rockefeller was sworn in as vice president by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, after which, by unanimous consent, he was allowed to address the Senate.

¹⁷ 200th anniversary commemoration of Senate's first legislative session. (Eagleton and Baker addresses were given in the old Senate chamber during a regular legislative session.)

Sources: U.S., Congress, Senate, *Journal*; U.S., Congress, Senate, *Congressional Record*; U.S., Congress, House, *Journal*; U.S., Congress, *Annals of Congress*.

Presidents Who Have Addressed the Senate from the Senate Floor

Woodrow Wilson

- 1/22/1917- Plan for Peace
- 9/30/1918- Women's Suffrage
- 7/10/1919- Versailles Treaty

Warren G. Harding

- 7/12/1921- WWI Veterans Compensation

Herbert Hoover

- 5/31/1932- Economy Message

Harry Truman

- 7/2/1945- United Nations Charter

Richard Nixon

- 11/13/1969- Vietnam Policy

Gerald Ford

- 8/21/1974- Cost of Living Council
- 11/21/1980*- General Remarks

*- Denotes that President Ford was not in office

Note: In 1801 President Thomas Jefferson ceased the practice of presidential appearances before Congress. This policy continued until 1913 when the practice was reinstated by President Woodrow Wilson