

Accordingly, when the day and hour set apart for the consideration of the special order has arrived, that special order takes precedence of all other business. The presiding officer or any member may call it up, and to do so may interrupt any one, although the latter may at the time have possession of the floor, and be addressing the meeting. Whatever business is then before the Lodge must be suspended at once, that the special order may take its place, and be brought before the assembly.

But, although the special order will thus obtrude itself before the Lodge at the sacrifice of all other business, it does not follow that it necessarily will retain the attention of the members. Like every other proposition, it is subject to various subsidiary motions. It may be discharged, or be postponed to another time.

If a motion to discharge the special order prevails, then it ceases any longer to be a special order. It loses its speciality and its privilege, and subsides into the class of motions to which it properly belongs, and can be called up only in the regular order of business, at the time when a motion to call it up would be in order. The business which had been suspended is at once resumed and proceeded with.

But a motion may be made and may prevail to postpone the special order to a future day or hour. The effect of this motion is different from that which discharges the order. The special order here loses its speciality and privilege only temporarily, and on the arrival of the time to which it had been postponed it resumes its special privilege, and may be called up as at the original time; still, however, subject to the same motions for discharge or for further postponement.

A special order may also be disposed of in a third way. Although it is the right, it is not the duty of any member to call up the special order. Hence, if a proposition has been made the special order for any hour of any day, and that hour passes without any action being taken to proceed with it, the special order is dropped, and can only come up thereafter as unfinished business and as an unprivileged question. The time appointed to consider it as a special order having passed, it loses its character as a special order.

Let us illustrate this usage. It is a very common practice in Grand Lodges to set apart a certain day and hour for proceeding to the election of officers for the ensuing year. Now, we will suppose that on Monday a motion is made, and that that motion prevails, making the election of officers the special order for 12 o'clock on Wednesday morning. When the hour of 12 on Wednesday arrives, the Grand Lodge may be engaged in some other business, notwithstanding which, any member may call up the special order. If this be concurred in, the Grand Lodge proceeds to the election. But a motion may be made that the special order be postponed until 12 o'clock on Thursday; and if this motion prevails, that hour is set apart for the election, and at that hour the special order again comes up. A motion may, however, be made to discharge the special order, and, if that motion is adopted, no future time is appointed for the election, and a new motion must be made to provide for it. Again, on the arrival of the hour of 12 on Wednesday no one may feel disposed to interrupt the business then in hand, and consequently no notice would be taken of the special order, which, in that case, would be dissolved, and the election could only be held in consequence of some future motion.

If, however, the motion to make the special order had been to make it "for Wednesday," and not for "12 o'clock on Wednesday"—that is to