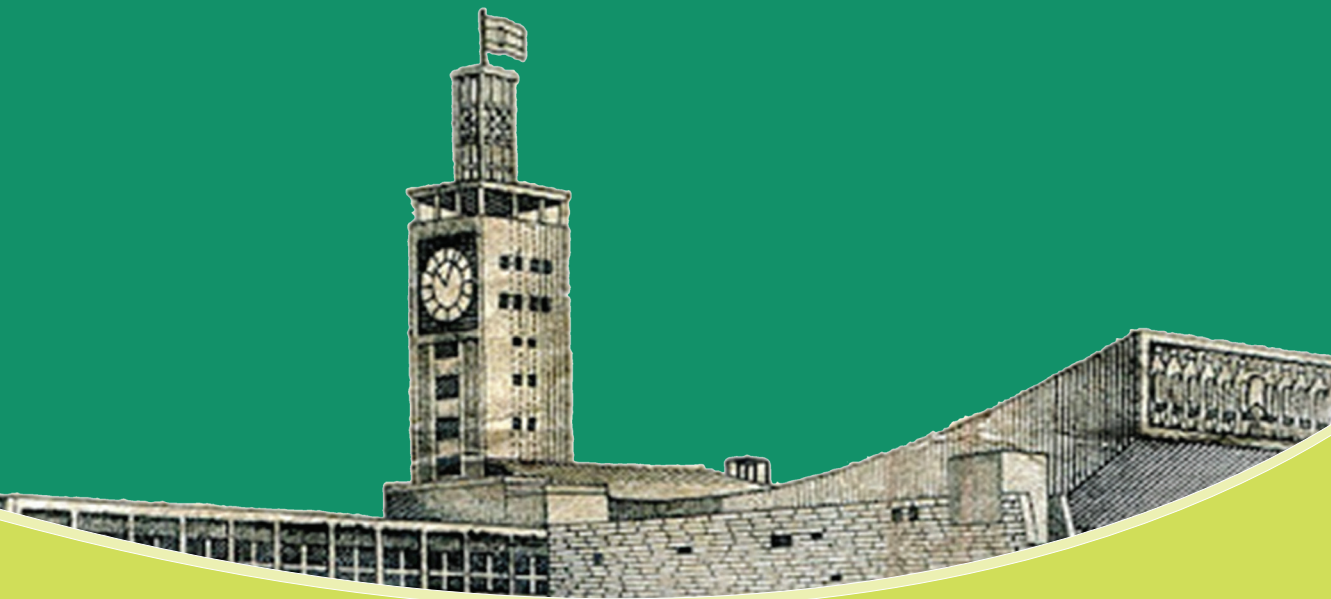




Parliament of Kenya

The National Assembly

The Mace



Fact Sheet
No. 25

The Mace

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FactSheet 25: The Mace

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Compiled by:

The National Assembly Taskforce on Factsheets, Online Resources and Webcasting
of Proceedings

Design & Layout: National Council for Law Reporting

Acknowledgements

This Factsheet on **The Mace** is part of the Kenya National Assembly Factsheets Series that are supposed to enhance public understanding, awareness and knowledge of the work of the Assembly and its operations. It is intended to serve as easy guide for ready reference by Members of Parliament, staff and the general public. The information contained here is not exhaustive and readers are advised to refer to the original sources for further information.

This work is a product of concerted efforts of all the Directorates and Departments of the National Assembly, and the Parliamentary Joint Services. Special thanks go to the Members of the National Assembly Taskforce on Factsheets, Online Resources and Webcasting of Proceedings, namely, Mr. Kipkemoi arap Kirui (Team Leader), Mr. Emejen Lonyuko, Mr. Robert Nyaga, Mr. Denis Abisai, Mr. Stephen Mutungi, Mr. Bonnie Mathooko, Maj. (Rtd.) Bernard Masinde, Mr. Enock Bosire, and Ms. Josephine Karani. Special thanks also go to the very dedicated members of the Secretariat of the Taskforce Mr. Salem Lorot (Head of the Secretariat), Mr. Samuel Kalama, Ms. Anne Shibuko, Mr. Benson Inzofu, Mr. Finlay Muriuki, Ms. Doreen Karani, Mr. Charles Atamba and Ms. Rabeca Munyao.



FactSheet

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The Mace

Introduction

The ceremonial mace is a highly-ornamented staff of metal or wood, carried before a sovereign or other high official in civic ceremonies by a mace-bearer, intended to represent the official's authority. The mace, as used today, derives from the original mace used as a weapon. Processions that feature maces include parliamentary or formal academic occasions. The Mace is also referred to as a Sceptre.

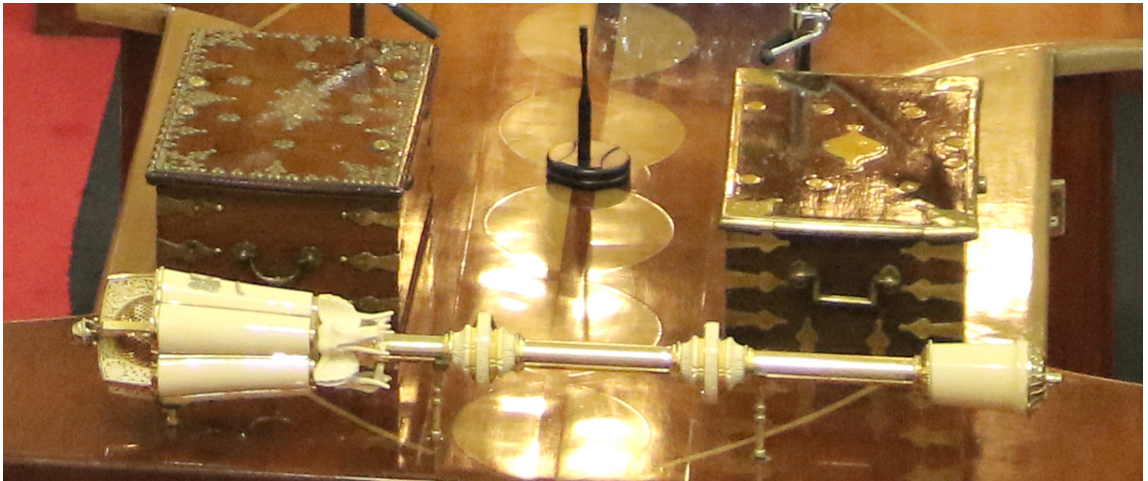
History

The earliest ceremonial maces were practical weapons intended to protect the king's person, borne by the Sergeants-at-Arms, a royal bodyguard established in France by King Philip Augustus II (1180-1223)¹ who was arguably the first French monarch and a member of the House of Capet and in England probably by King Richard I (1189-1199) (also referred to as Richard the lionheart). By the 14th Century, these sergeants' maces had started to become increasingly decorative, encased in precious metals. The mace as a real weapon went out of use with the disappearance of heavy armor.

The history of the civic mace (carried by the sergeants-at-arms) began around the middle of the 13th Century. Early in the 15th Century the flanged end of the mace (the head of the war mace) was carried uppermost, with the small button bearing the royal arms in the base. Craftsmen often pierced and decorated the flanged ends of the maces of this era beautifully. These flanges gradually became smaller, and by the 16th or early 17th Century had developed into pretty projecting scroll-brackets and other

1

Adopted from *The Encyclopedia.com- The Oxford Companion to British History 2002*, originally published by Oxford University Press 2002.



The Mace in its place at the Chamber

ornaments, which remained in vogue until about 1640. The next development in the embellishment of the shaft was the reappearance of these small scroll-brackets on the top, immediately under the head of the mace. They disappear altogether from the foot in the last half of the 17th Century, and remain only under the heads, or, in rarer instances, on a knob on the shaft. The silver mace-heads were mostly plain, with a cresting of leaves or flowers in the 15th and 16th Centuries. In the reign of James I of England they began to be engraved and decorated with heraldic devices and similar ornamentation. As the custom of having sergeants' maces began to die out about 1650, the large maces borne before the mayor or bailiffs came into general use.

The mace as a weapon

According to parliamentary historians, the mace bears an ancient history as a weapon as it was originally used as a war club, primarily in Europe as late as the 16th century. It also was used by medieval bishops, by consuls of the Roman Republic and by provincial magistrates. Roman soldiers have been pictured on stone tombs carrying maces. Its size varied when it was used as a weapon. Those used by foot soldiers were a lot shorter than maces carried by cavalry. Maces developed from a steel ball on a wooden handle to an elaborately spiked steel war club. The heavy head meant they could be used to deliver violent blows. In medieval times serjeants were used as bodyguards, and carried a mace to use as a weapon and a badge of office. Indeed, the title Serjeant-at-Arms literally means 'servant bearing arms'. As new weapons replaced the mace, it gradually became a symbol of legislative authority and power, rather than a weapon. In England, it seems the mace was last used as a weapon in Queen Elizabeth I's reign (1558–1603).

Uses and Significance of the Mace

C. Harris, the Clerk of the Australia House of Representatives in the Fifth Edition of *House of Representatives Practice*, observes that, towards the end of the 14th century royal sergeants-at-Arms were assigned to duties in the House of Commons. The powers of arrest of the royal sergeants came to be identified as the powers of arrest of the House of Commons. This authority may be said to have formed the basis of the power of enforcement of parliamentary privilege and as its exercise had depended in

the first instance on the powers vested in a Royal Serjeant-at-Arms, the mace, which was his emblem of office, became identified with the growing privileges of the House of Commons and was recognized as the symbol of the authority of the House and hence the authority of the Speaker. The original royal authority of the may be said to have formed the basis of the power of enforcement of parliamentary privilege and as its exercise had depended in the first instance on the powers vested in a Royal Serjeant-at-Arms, the mace, which was his emblem of office, became identified with the growing privileges of the House of Commons and was recognized as the symbol of the authority of the House and hence the authority of the Speaker.

Maces are now symbols of authority in many parliaments throughout the world. They are ornamental and often highly decorated. The Mace enhances the richness of parliamentary tradition, and symbolizes the authority of the Legislature in which it is displayed and utilized. In most Parliaments, no formal business can be transacted in the absence of the Mace. It is regarded, both within and without Parliament, as the overarching symbol of the authority and dignity of the House as well as the Speaker presiding over the House. In monarchies, it represents Royal authority. The Mace is an essential part of Parliamentary regalia. It gives credence and legality to the assembly of Members of Parliament. Simply put, the Mace has the meaning of the innate authority and dignity of Parliament and its Presiding officer, namely the Speaker.

The Mace in Other Jurisdictions

The Parliament of the United Kingdom

In the two Houses of the Lords and Commons which constitute the UK Parliament, ceremonial maces represent the authority of the Sovereign, currently Queen Elizabeth II. The Sovereign is referred to as the “third part of Parliament” and signs into law the Bills which are voted on in Parliament. In the United Kingdom, the Houses of Parliament cannot lawfully meet without the mace, which represents the royal authority, present in their Chambers. The mace is carried in and out of the two Chambers in procession at the beginning and end of each day. The House of Commons mace is a silver gilt ornamental club of about five feet in length. On each day that the House is sitting the mace is carried to the Chamber at the head of the Speaker’s procession by the Serjeant at Arms. It is placed on the table of the House, except when the House is in committee, when it rests on two brackets underneath the table.

The House of Lords has two maces, dating from the reigns of King Charles II and King William III. In the Commons, the Mace, carried by the Serjeant at Arms, is placed on bronze Mace brackets, on the Table of the House in front of the Speaker. One of the maces accompanies the Lord Speaker into the Chamber and is placed on the Woolsack whenever the House meets. The mace is absent from the Lords during the State Opening when the Monarch is in the Chamber in person.²

The Mace in the Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament has a silver mace designed in 1999 that incorporates a gold wedding ring presented to it by Her Majesty the Queen at the opening ceremony on July 1999. It is constructed of Scottish silver with an inlaid band of gold panned from Scottish rivers. The gold band is intended to symbolize the marriage of the Parliament, the land, and the people. The words ‘*Wisdom, Justice, Compassion, Integrity*’ are woven into thistles at the head of the mace to represent the aspirations of the Scottish

² Adopted from <http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/mace/> and edited.

people for the Members of their Parliament. The head of the mace bears the words: 'There shall be a Scottish Parliament - Scotland Act 1998'.³

National Assembly of Wales' Ceremonial Mace

The National Assembly of Wales has a gold, silver and brass mace which bears the Assembly's official symbol at its head. The mace was presented to the Assembly by the Parliament of New South Wales at the ceremony to mark the official opening of the Assembly Building, the Senedd, in Cardiff on St David's Day 2006. It is made from gold, silver and brass. The Mace was worth around £10,500 (Ksh 1.5 million) as of 2006, and was handed over to the National Assembly during the opening ceremony.⁴

The mace in the Irish Parliament

The silver gilt mace of the old Irish House of Commons, which dates to 1765/1766 is now displayed in the old Irish House of Lords Chamber in the old Parliament House which since 1803 has been Bank of Ireland, College Green in Dublin. The silver gilt mace of the old Irish House of Lords is on permanent display at the National Museum, Collins Barracks. City councils and universities in Ireland often possess a ceremonial mace.

Parliament of Victoria, Australia

The Serjeant-at-Arms is custodian of the parliamentary mace. Initially the House of Commons did not prepare warrants for arrest, so the Serjeant used the mace as his only authority to arrest people. The mace symbolises a House of Parliament's authority and independence. The Legislative Assembly can only meet and debate when the mace is on the table in the Chamber. The Assembly has had three maces in its history. The first was a gilded wooden mace used during 1857–65 and 1891–1901. The Commonwealth House of Representatives borrowed this mace from 1901 to 1951, until the House of Commons gave it a mace. The second mace was engraved with the English and Victorian coats of arms and had a Maltese cross on the headpiece. The Assembly used it from 1866 until it was famously stolen from its box in the Speaker's office in 1891. Despite a widespread police search and several suspects, including the then Speaker, it was never found. The present mace was first used in 1901. It is silver, 1.5 metres long, weighs 8 kilograms, and is gilded to look like solid gold.⁵

The mace features symbols of the rose, thistle, harp and waratah, representing England, Scotland, Ireland and Victoria. Its headpiece incorporates a fleur-de-lis, and the United Kingdom and Victorian Coats of Arms embossed in enamel. It is also engraved with the names of the Speakers since 1856.

Australia's House of Representatives and Senate

The House of Representatives adopted the House of Commons' practice of using a Mace on the first sitting day of the Commonwealth Parliament on 9 May 1901. Current standing orders of both Houses require that, once the newly elected Speaker has taken the Chair, the Mace, which until then remains under the Table, is placed on the Table. In practice the Mace is placed on the Table by the Sergeant-at-Arms when the Speaker takes the Chair at the commencement of each sitting and it remains there until the Speaker leaves the Chair at the adjournment of the sitting. (The ceremonial

3 Adopted from <http://www.parliament.scot/visitandlearn/24496.aspx> and edited.

4 Adopted from - <http://www.assembly.wales> and edited.

5 Adopted from Fact Sheet H4: The Serjeant at Arms, Parliament of Victoria

custodian of the Black Rod in the Senate is the Usher of the Black Rod. The Mace remains on the Table if the sitting is suspended for a short time, but the current practice is for it to be removed during an overnight suspension. The Mace used by the House of Representatives from 1901 to 1951 was lent to the House of Representatives by the Victorian Legislative Assembly. The current Mace was presented to the House of Representatives, at the direction of King George VI, by a delegation from the House of Commons on 29 November 1951 to mark the Jubilee of the Commonwealth Parliament, and was, by Australian request, designed to resemble the Mace in use in the House of Commons. It is made from heavily gilded silver and embodies much symbolic ornamentation, including symbols of the Australian Commonwealth and States and numerous devices which illustrate Australian achievement.

In Australia Houses of Parliament, it is normal practice for the Mace to be used when the House is sitting. However, it was not considered essential for the Mace to be on the Table for the House to be properly constituted during the period when the Mace lent by the Victorian Legislative Assembly was in use, and during this time there were periods (1911-13, 1914-17, 1929-31) when the Mace was removed from the Chamber completely, on the instructions of the Speaker⁶.

Canada

The ceremonial maces in the Canadian Senate and the Canadian House of Commons embody the authority each chamber derives from the country's sovereign. A similar practice is employed in each of the provincial and territorial legislatures, with each mace representing the authority and power of the respective legislature. Each of the legislatures follow a relatively standard protocol in relation to the ceremonial mace; the Speaker of the House normally enters following a mace-bearer (normally the sergent-at-arms), who subsequently sets the mace on the clerks' table to begin the sitting. When the sergent-at-arms removes the mace from the table, the House has either adjourned, recessed, or been resolved into a committee of the whole. Before the reigning monarch or one of his or her representatives (the governor general or one of the lieutenant governors) may enter a legislative chamber, the mace must be completely hidden from view. This is done by draping the mace in a heavy velvet cloth, a procedure performed by the house pages. During the election of the speaker, the mace is removed from the table to show that the house is not fully constituted until the new speaker takes the chair and the mace is laid on the table.

The Mace in the Congress of Philippines

The Congress of the Republic of Philippines is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The mace of the House of Representatives serves as a symbol of authority and in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms. It serves as a guarantee for the Sergeant-at-Arms in enforcing peace and order in the House upon the Speaker's instruction. Each time there is a session, the mace is placed at the foot of the Speaker's rostrum. The mace is topped by the official seal of the House of Representatives. The mace of the Senate also serves as a symbol of authority. It is also displayed at the Senate President's rostrum whenever the Senate is sitting. As with the House of Representatives, the Sergeant-at-Arms also serves as the custodian of the mace. When there is disorderly conduct in the Senate, the Sergeant-at-Arms brings the mace from its pedestal and presents it to the senator(s) causing the disorder, a signal to stop such

behavior. The official seal of the Senate also tops the mace.⁷

New Zealand

The first Mace was presented to the House by its first Speaker, Sir Charles Clifford, in 1866 and was destroyed in the Parliament House fire of 1907. A temporary wooden mace was then used until on 7 October, 1909, the present Mace was donated to the House by the Prime Minister, Sir Joseph Ward, and his Cabinet. This mace was ordered from England at the Ministers' own expense. The Mace, which is a replica of the one used in the House of Commons, is made of silver gilded with 18 carat gold. It is 1.498 metres long and weighs 8.164 kilograms.

The Serjeant-at-Arms was originally a Royal officer with the power to arrest without warrant. The House of Commons in the fifteenth century induced the Crown to appoint such an officer to the House to enable it to order the arrest of persons who offended against its privileges. The symbol of the Serjeant's authority to arrest was the Mace he carried. In time the Mace came to be regarded as the formal corporate symbol of the authority of the House. To avoid removing the Mace from the House when an offender was ordered to be arrested, the Speaker began to issue warrants of arrest. Offenders are now arrested under the Speaker's warrant rather than by the authority of the Mace. While the Mace has become a corporate symbol of the House in New Zealand as well as in the United Kingdom, it is no more than that. The House had no Mace at all for the first 12 years of its existence, and although the absence of a Mace is not usual, it does not prejudice the continued sitting of the House or affect the validity of anything done at that sitting.⁸

Parliament of Sri Lanka

The ceremonial jeweled Mace which symbolizes the authority of Parliament of Sri Lanka, is kept in the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms. The Mace, when kept on its stand in the Chamber signifies that the House is in session. At the commencement of a session, the Serjeant-at-Arms bearing the Mace accompanies the Speaker when entering and leaving the Chamber. The Mace has to be legally brought into the House at the appointed time and removed at the end of the sitting. In the Parliament of Sri Lanka, there is an observed principle that, notwithstanding the cherished symbolism of the Mace in the House, its unauthorized removal cannot invalidate the proceedings of the House.

The Congress of the United States of America

The first Mace, ordered by the first session of Congress in the spring of 1789, was destroyed when the British Army burned the Capitol on Aug. 24, 1814. For the next 25 years, a staff of painted wood served the purpose.

The current Mace of the United States House of Representatives has been in use since December 1, 1842. It was created by William Adams, a New York silversmith, at a cost of \$400 to replace the first mace, which was destroyed on August 24, 1814 when the Capitol was destroyed in the burning of Washington by the British during the War of 1812. A simple wooden mace was used in the interim after the destruction. The current mace is nearly four feet tall and is composed of 13 ebony rods tied together with silver strands criss-crossed over the length of the pole and weighs about 5.90

kilograms. It is topped by a silver eagle, wings outspread, standing on a world globe. When the House is in session, the mace stands in a cylindrical pedestal of green marble to the right of the chair of the Speaker. When the House is meeting as the Committee of the Whole, the mace is moved to a pedestal next to the desk of the Sergeant at Arms. Thus, Representatives entering the chamber know with a glance whether the House is in session or in committee. In accordance with the Rules of the House, in some circumstances, when a Member becomes unruly the Sergeant at Arms, on order of the Speaker, lifts the mace from its pedestal and presents it before the offenders, thereby restoring order. This occurs very rarely. When the House is not in session, the mace is kept in a locked mahogany and glass cabinet in the office of the sergeant-at-arms.

The Senate of the USA Congress lacks a specific symbol of its institutional authority comparable to the large ceremonial mace employed by the House of Representatives. In its place, a small ivory gavel conveys a sense of continuity and the importance of order in Senate proceedings. At the start of each daily session, a Senate page carries a mahogany box with a hinged glass top into the Chamber and places it on the presiding officer's desk. The box, which remains on that desk whenever the Senate is in session, contains two hour-glass-shaped solid ivory gavels, each two-and-one-half-inches high. The older gavel had been in use at least since the 1830s, but had begun to deteriorate by the 1940s. In 1954, during a heated, late-night debate, Vice President Richard Nixon pounded the weakened gavel so vigorously that it splintered. Later that year, the government of India presented the Senate with a replacement, duplicating the original object with the addition of a floral band carved around its center. When the Chamber becomes noisy, any member may request the presiding officer to suspend proceedings and restore order with a muscular pounding of this "ivory hammer."⁹

The Mace as used in the National Assembly of Kenya

Available records indicate that, in 1958, the Speaker of the Legislative Council Mr. Cavendish Bentick received the first Mace from the crown Prince. The Parliament of Kenya has used the Mace during its legislative undertakings since then. In independent Kenya, two Maces were used by the bicameral House from 1963 to 1966, after which one was used until 2013 when the new Constitution reinstated the Senate.

Upon the attainment of independence, His Excellency the President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta officially brought the Maces to Parliament on Monday, December 14, 1964 during the Second Session of the First Parliament, and handed them to the two Speakers, namely Hon. Sir Humphrey Slade Speaker of the House of Representatives and Hon. Timothy C.M. Chokwe Speaker of the Senate, to symbolize the constitutional authority of the two Houses derived from the People of the Republic. Since then the Mace has been part and parcel of important parliamentary insignia Kenya was later to bequeath the Mace that was originally used by the Senate to the East Africa Legislative Assembly ahead of its first sitting in Arusha, Tanzania on 29th November 2001.

The Mace of the House, which bears the coat of arms and made of a blend of gold, ivory and gold coatings is 4 ½ feet long and weighs 12.5Kg. It has come to be associated with the authority of the Speaker and the House as a whole. While the Speaker is officiating over the House, the Mace ought to be in its proper place on a

Table, lying horizontally, with the larger end that bears the coat of arms facing the right-hand side of the House as viewed from the Speaker's chair.

The Serjeant-at-Arms is the custodian of the Mace. The Serjeant carries the Mace on his or her shoulder when leading the Speaker's procession into the House each day and on ceremonial occasions involving the Speaker. Ceremonial occasions in which the Serjeant plays a prominent role include the opening of each session of the Parliament by H. E. the President of the Republic of Kenya, the procession of the Speaker and Members to the chamber during joint sittings of the Houses of Parliament during the President's address to a new Parliament following the general elections.

Profile of Cases some involving the Mace, including seizures and thefts

Institution	Summary of Case involving the Mace
The House of Commons of the United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1930, John Beckett, a member of the Labour Party, was suspended from the House of Commons for showing disrespect to the Mace by trying to leave the chamber with it while protesting against the suspension of another member. It was wrestled away from him at the door. • In 1976, Michael Heseltine, a member of the Conservative Party, seized the Mace and brandished it at the opposing Labour Party members, during a heated debate on the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill. • In 1987, Ron Brown, then Labour MP for Leith, picked up the Mace during a debate on the poll tax, and threw it to the floor. The Mace was damaged and Brown was ordered to pay £1500 to repair it. When he later failed to read out a pre-agreed apology to the Speaker, he was suspended from the Commons and the Labour Party. • In 2009, John McDonnell, the Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington, in which London Heathrow Airport is situated, was suspended from the Commons after disrupting a debate on expansion of the airport. Following Transport Secretary Geoff Hoon's announcement that the government had decided to approve a new Heathrow runway without a vote in the Commons, McDonnell picked up the Commons Mace. TV pictures of the Commons chamber were cut during McDonnell's protest. McDonnell was named by Deputy Speaker Sir Alan Haselhurst and, as such, was suspended from the Commons for five days.
Parliament of Canada	<p>Being a symbol of the power and authority of a legislative assembly, a precedent was set in 2002 as to the severity of acts of disrespect toward the mace in Canada and, by proxy, the monarch. After Keith Martin, federal Member of Parliament for Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca, seized the ceremonial Mace of the House of Commons from the Clerk's table, the Speaker of that chamber ruled that a <i>prima facie</i> breach of the privileges of the House had occurred, and contempt of the House been committed. Martin was not permitted to resume his seat until he had issued a formal apology from the bar of the House, pursuant to a motion passed in response to the incident.</p>
Parliament of Victoria (A State in Australia)	<p>The Mace disappeared from its locked case in Parliament House in Melbourne on the night of October 8, 1891 and despite an extensive search, its whereabouts remain a mystery to-date. The only clue was that a man was seen sprinting from Parliament, carrying a large, long object wrapped in brown paper and tied with string. He jumped onboard a moving cable tram. And such was the weight of the object that he was carrying, that it swung him around and it bashed into a metal stanchion. And it clanged. Clearly, the parcel was metal. He got off somewhere around about Abbotsford, and disappeared without a trace. To this day, there's a \$50,000 reward awaiting the person who finds it.</p>

<p>National Assembly of Guyana</p>	<p>In October 2014, the Speaker of the Guyana National Assembly issued a Press Statement that the Mace had been stolen, and filed a report on the same with the Commissioner of Police. However, a few days later, the Clerk of the National Assembly told reporters that he had actually taken it for cleaning. The Clerk said he took the Mace for safe keeping and for cleaning and that the Speaker never enquired from him of its whereabouts. The Clerk and the Speaker were at odds over the Clerk's refusal of the Speaker's request to set November 6, 2014 as the date for the National Assembly to reconvene after its recess.</p>
<p>of the National Assembly of Kenya</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June 1997, some opposition Member constantly attempted to grab the Mace in order to disrupt the Budget presentation by then Finance Minister Musalia Mudavadi. The Speaker ordered them out, one after the other. • During debate on the Security Laws (Amendment) Bill 2014, the Member for Nyando (Hon. Fred Outa, was be wrestled to the ground when he attempted to seize the Mace so as to curtail voting following a division.
<p>Parliament of Lesotho</p>	<p>In November 2014, Qoaling legislator Hon. Chalane Phori seized the ceremonial mace in the National Assembly and walked out, forcing adjournment of business. The commotion was sparked by a debate on constitutional amendments on the powers by the Prime Minister to prorogue Parliament. As a fierce debate on whether the motion should be discussed or not raged, Hon. Phori left his seat, took the mace and walked out, forcing the session into an unexpected break. The mace was later returned to its rightful place by the House Assembly's Sergeant-at-Arms, who is its custodian. The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Advocate Lekhetho Rakuoane Rakuoane ordered Phori to immediately withdraw from the House, citing his action had demeaned the Speaker's seat. Because of the disruption, the house was adjourned to the following day. The mace is an essential part of the regalia of parliament symbolizing the authority of the King as exercised by the elected Assembly.</p>
<p>Parliament of Sri Lanka</p>	<p>In June 2014, two Buddhist monks who are members of Sri Lanka's Parliament were hospitalized after being beaten up inside the country's National Assembly. The unprecedented violence followed arguments over President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government's struggle to muster a simple majority in Parliament. Ruling party MPs ran away with the Mace, which is the symbol of the Speaker's authority, thereby holding up further sessions of Parliament which were postponed until July 20, 2014, when a replacement was found..</p>
<p>State Assemblies in Nigeria</p>	<p>Seizing the Mace and employing as an assault weapon in Nigeria dates back to the first republic when Mr. Ebubedike representing Badagry East in the Western Nigerian parliament seized it as fight broke out among members. In those days, it became the prime instrument of attack during the occasional factional commotion where chairs and other dangerous instruments were would be deployed. It was reported that, the late Senate President, Chuba Okadigbo, once boasted that he took the Senate's mace to his village, Ogbunike, where he claimed that a seven-foot python was protecting it from his disgruntled colleagues who wanted to impeach him.</p> <p>It is also reported that, in July 2013, in the Rivers State House of Assembly chaos broke out inside the chamber as some of the Members loyal to the then Governor of Rivers State and others loyal to the Minister for Education engaged in a tussle over the leadership of the House. The lawmakers supporting the Minister had declared that they had impeached the House Speaker but the majority members responded with one using the mace as a weapon. At the end, it was reported that three lawmakers seriously injured.</p> <p>In another instance, Dr. Chuba Okadigbo the Senate President raced to his hometown of Ogbunike to hide the Mace of the Senate in a bid to stall his impeachment. Additionally, in early 2013, the Mace of the House of Assembly of Ogun State was smashed and damaged during a commotion in the House. The Mace was later repaired for use in the House.</p>

The US House of Representatives

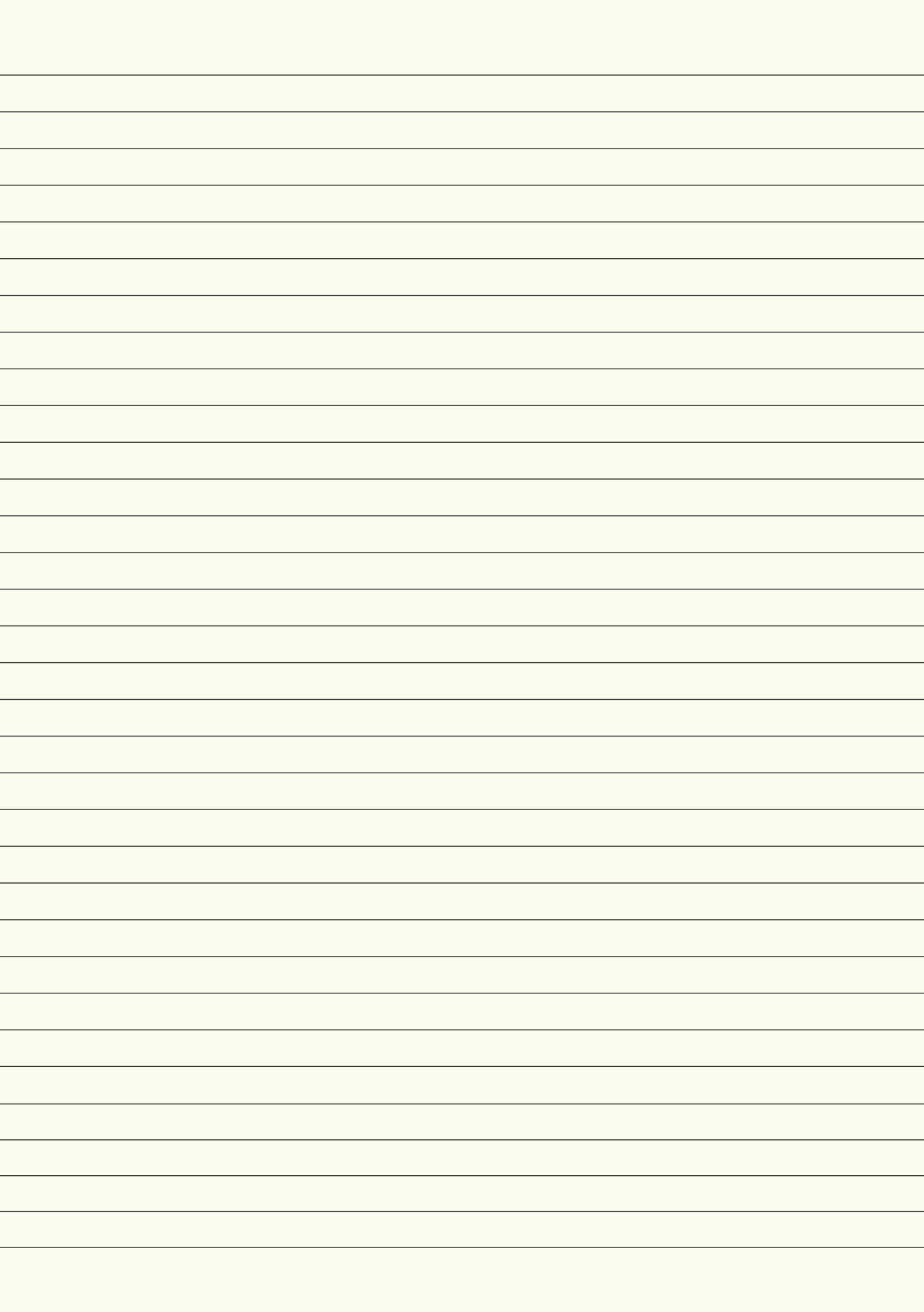
While history has no record that it has ever been used to actually club down the disorderly, it has been removed from its pedestal a dozen or more times and held in front of offending lawmakers by the House sergeant-at-arms. So great is the respect for it as a symbol of law and order that order was restored each time. It was used twice in the 1890's in incidents involving Representative Charles L. Bartlett, a fiery Georgia Democrat who hurled a volume of laws at one colleague and brandished a knife at another. Further, the House of Representatives records indicate that the mace was last used to restore order during World War I when Representative J. Thomas Heflin of Alabama, suggested that some of his colleagues had been unpatriotic in voting against a resolution to enter the war.

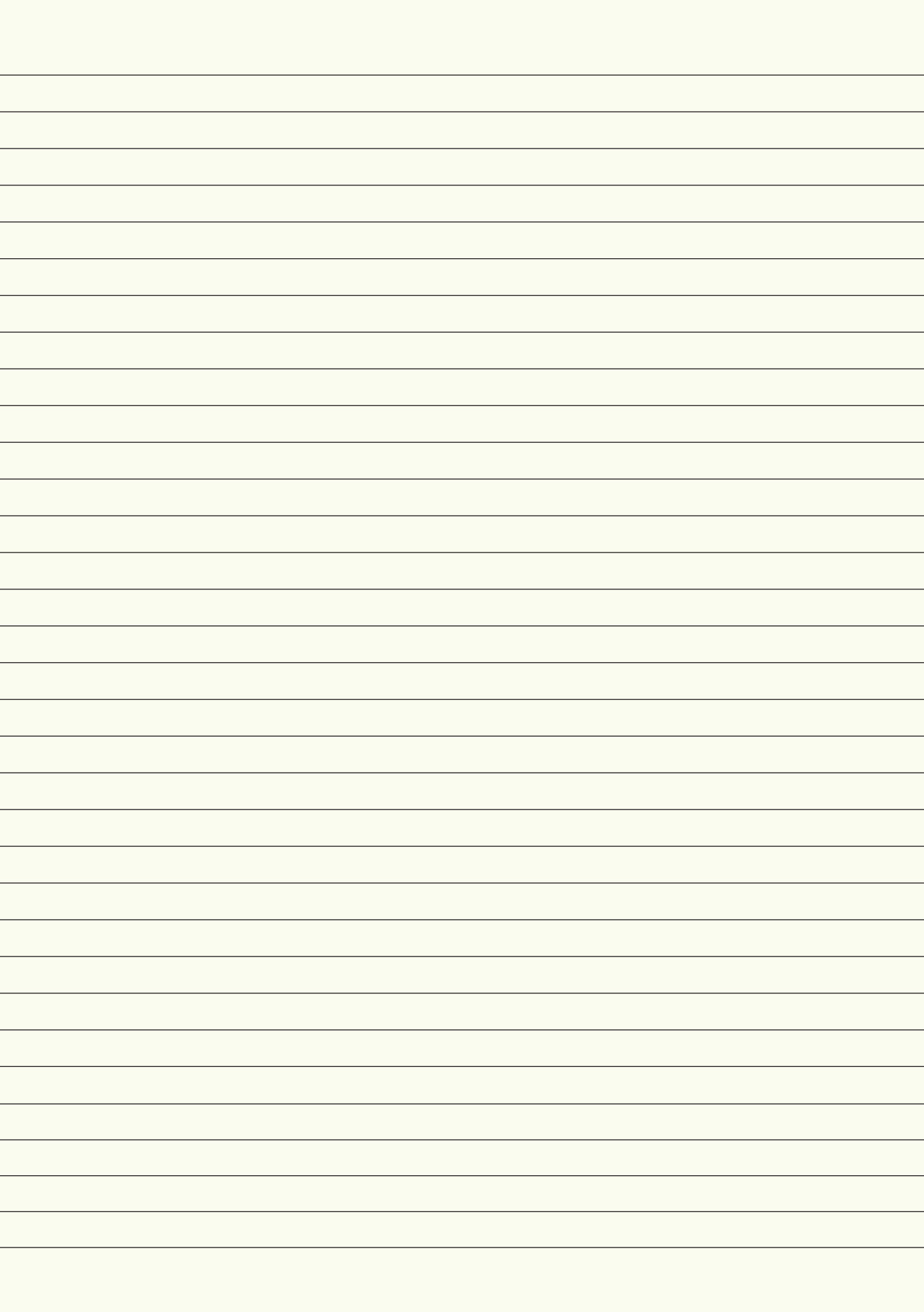
The Mace and the Standing Orders

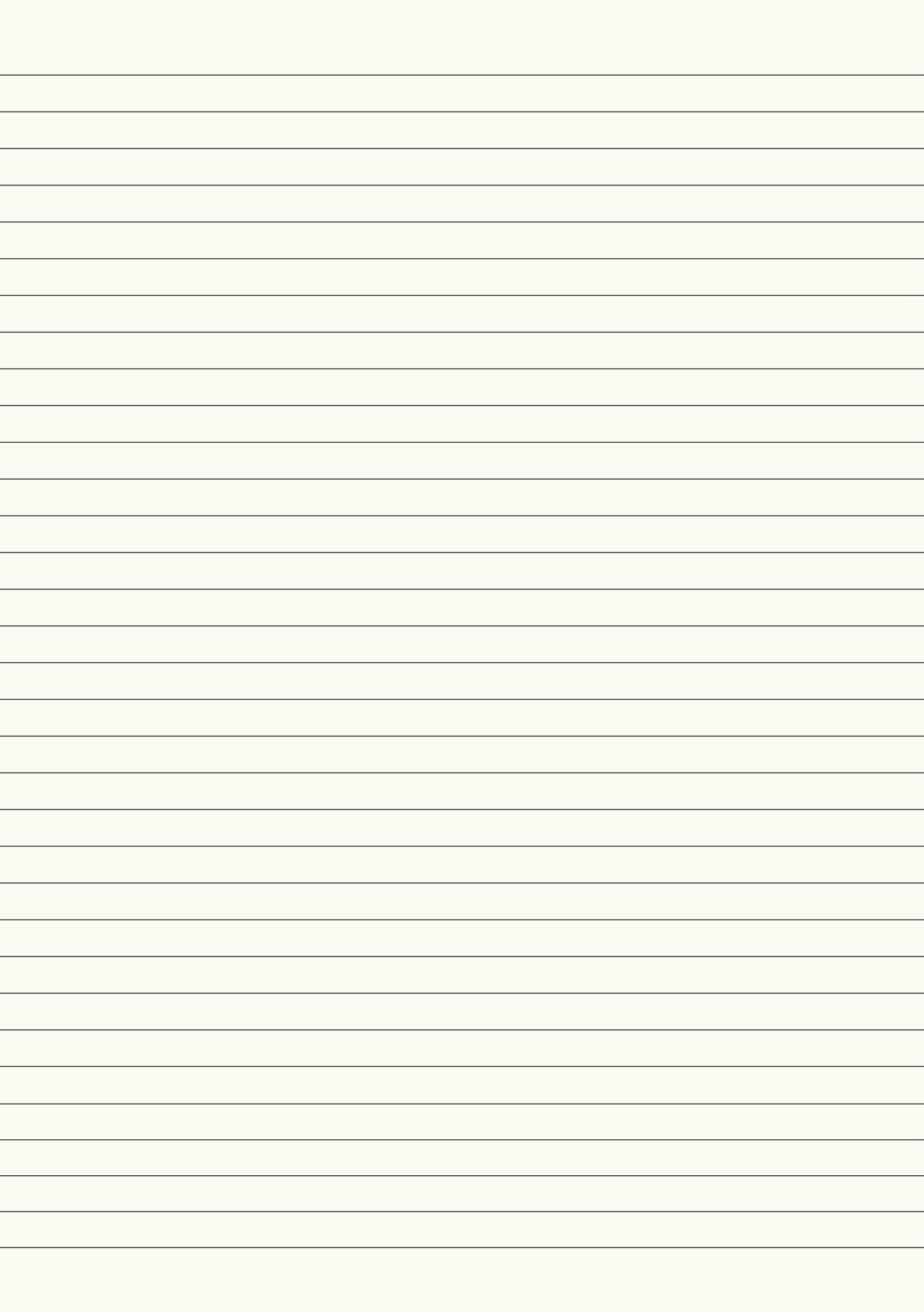
The place of the Mace in the legislative affairs of the National Assembly has been left largely to traditions and practices of the House and comparative jurisdictions. In this regard, the rules of procedure (Standing Orders) had been silent on the recognition of the Mace. On June 15, 2017, prior proceeding to sine die recess, the National Assembly reviewed its Standing Orders. One of the new provisions in the amended rules of procedure is Standing Order 2A, which formally recognizes the Mace by providing that-

“2A. The Mace of the House embodies the authority of the Speaker and the House and shall be kept in safe custody by the Serjeant-at-Arms”

Further, conscious of a gradual increase in the number of attempts to remove the place from its place on the Table of the House during disagreements on particular debates, the House also amended Standing Order 107A provide that an attempt or actual seizure of the Mace would amount to gross disorderly conduct, whose penalty is withdraw from the precincts of the Assembly for a minimum of five days and a maximum of twenty-eight days, including the day of suspension.









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