

House of Representatives

The House Rules Committee is perhaps the free world's outstanding bureaucratic abomination — a tiny, airless closet deep in the labyrinth of the Capital where some of the very meanest people on earth spend their days skinning democracy like a fish. The official function of the committee is to decide which bills and amendments will be voted on by Congress and also to schedule the parameters of debate. If Rules votes against your amendment, your amendment dies. If you control the Rules Committee, you control Congress.

**Matt Taibbi,
"Four Amendments and a Funeral"**