

[Table 3-8]

ALL-NIGHT SESSIONS of the SENATE ¹
(Since 1915)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Subject and Length</u>
1915	Ship Purchase Act. From noon on February 8 until 6:00 p.m. on February 10 (54 hours).
1927	Resolution to continue investigation of the Frank L. Smith-William S. Vare election cases. From 11:00 a.m. on March 2 to 12:02 a.m. on March 4 (37 hours, 2 minutes).
1935	National Recovery Act Extension. From noon on June 12 until 6:20 a.m. on June 13 (18 hours, 20 minutes).
1947	Veto of labor bill. From noon on June 20 to 6:52 p.m. on June 21 (30 hours, 52 minutes).
1948	Closing session. From 11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 18, to 7:14 a.m. on Sunday, June 20 (44 hours, 14 minutes).
1950	Closing session. From 11:30 a.m. on Friday, September 22, to 5:23 p.m. on Saturday, September 23 (29 hours, 53 minutes). This was the session in which Senator William Langer (R-ND) collapsed during a filibuster on the veto of the Communist registration bill.
1952	Supplemental Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1953. From noon on Saturday, July 5, to 5:09 a.m. Sunday, July 6 (17 hours, 9 minutes).
1953	Tidelands bill. From 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 24, to 3:50 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 (28 hours, 50 minutes). During this session, Senator Wayne Morse (R/I/D/-OR) broke the then-existing record for the longest Senate speech, taking the floor at 11:40 a.m. and speaking for 22 hours, 26 minutes. The Senate then took up and passed rent control, after which Senator James E. Murray (R-MT) spoke for 4 hours.
1954	Atomic Energy bill. From 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 21, to 1:34 a.m. on Friday, July 23 (39 hours, 34 minutes).
1954	Atomic Energy bill. From 2:00 a.m. on Friday, July 23 to 11:49 p.m. on

¹ Sessions continuing until 4:00 a.m. or later have been considered all-night sessions here. Those ending earlier have not been included in this list. Other all-night sessions may have occurred for which no records have been found.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Subject and Length</u>
	Saturday, July 24 (45 hours, 49 minutes)
1954	Atomic Energy bill. From 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 26 to 9:56 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27 (35 hours, 56 minutes)
1957	Civil rights debate. From 10:00 a.m. on August 28, to 12:59 a.m. on August 30 (38 hours, 59 minutes). Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina began his speech at 8:54 p.m. on August 28 and spoke until 9:12 p.m. on August 29 (24 hours, 18 minutes). Interruptions for other business totaled 1 hour 18 minutes. This speech broke Senator Morse's record for the longest Senate speech.
1960	Civil rights (a bill to lease a building at Fort Crowder, MO, was used as vehicle for civil rights amendments). From noon on Monday, February 29, to 5:31 p.m. on Saturday, March 5 (125 hours, 16 minutes; includes a 15-minute recess on March 2). The longest unbroken session during that period took 82 hours, 2 minutes, from March 2 to March 5.
1960	Sugar Act. From 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 2, to 8:33 a.m. on Sunday, July 3 (22 hours, 33 minutes).
1961	Nomination of Lawrence J. O'Conner, Jr. of Texas to be a member of the Federal Power Commission. From 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 8, to 5:59 p.m. on Wednesday, August 9 (31 hours, 59 minutes). Senator William Proxmire (D-WI), who objected to the nomination, held the floor for much of this time, yielding for the transaction of other business with the understanding that he would not lose the floor.
1964	Civil rights debate. From 10:00 a.m. on June 9 to 9:51 a.m. on June 10 (23 hours, 51 minutes). Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) began a speech at 7:38 p.m. and spoke for 14 hours and 13 minutes.
1977	Natural Gas Policy Act. From 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 27, to 7:12 a.m. on Wednesday, September 28 (22 hours, 12 minutes). Howard Metzenbaum (D-OH) and James Abourezk (D-SD) conducted a "dilatatory tactic filibuster."
1978	Closing session. From 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 14, to 7:16 p.m. on Sunday, October 15. The Senate passed many bills, but the two main items were the conference reports on energy tax and income tax (34 hours, 16 minutes).
1980	Selective Service. From 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20, to 6:43 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21 (32 hours, 43 minutes).
1981	Debt limit. From 11:00 a.m. on September 28, to 10:26 a.m. on September 29 (23 hours, 26 minutes). Senator William Proxmire (D-WI) spoke for 16 hours, 12

<u>Year</u>	<u>Subject and Length</u>
	minutes, from early evening on September 28 until mid-morning on September 29 against allowing the national debt to go over \$1 trillion. Four minutes after recessing, at 10:30 a.m., the Senate reconvened, adjourning at 10:16 p.m. (11 hours, 46 minutes.)
1981	Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1982. From 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 19, to 6:52 a.m. on Friday, November 20 (20 hours, 52 minutes).
1982	Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1983. From 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, December 16, to 11:36 p.m. on Friday, December 17 (37 hours, 51 minutes).
1984	Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1985. From 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 3, to 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, October 4 (22 hours, 32 minutes).
1986	Public debt limit increase. From 9:30 a.m. August 15 to 4:03 a.m. on August 16 (18 hours, 33 minutes).
1986	Veto of South African Sanction and Continuing Resolution. From 8:30 a.m. on October 2 to 5:27 a.m. on October 3 (20 hours, 57 minutes).
1988	Senate Election Campaign Act. From 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 23, to 7:24 p.m. on Thursday, February 25 (57 hours, 24 minutes).
1992	Tax bill. From 9:30 a.m. on Monday, October 5, to 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6 (33 hours, 35 minutes). During this time, Senator Alphonse D'Amato (R-NY) spoke for 15 hours and 14 minutes in support of an amendment to the bill. The Senate then recessed for one hour and reconvened at 8:05 p.m. on October 6; recessed again from 8:06 p.m. until 10:32 p.m.; adjourned until the next day at 10:47 p.m.
1994	Congressional Campaign Spending Limit and Election Reform Act. From 10:00 a.m. on September 22 to 4:41 p.m. on September 23 (30 hours, 41 minutes).
2003	Judicial Nominations. From 9:30 a.m. on November 12 to 3:06 p.m. on November 14 (53 hours, 36 minutes) ²
2006	Tax and Trade package, and continuing resolution. From 9:30 a.m. on Friday, December 8 to 4:40 a.m. on Saturday, December 9. (19 hours, 10 minutes)

²The Senate recessed from 12:30-2:16 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12, for caucus luncheons

<u>Year</u>	<u>Subject and Length</u>
2007	Iraq War Policy. From 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 17, until 5:09 p.m. on Wednesday, July 18. (31 hours, 9 minutes)

Total = 31

Source: Senate Historical Office, U.S. Senate Library

Senate Historical Office
July 2009http://www.senate.gov/reference/Sessions/All_Night.pdf