

Lesson 23: The Organization of Congress II

(Lesson Time 35:27)

[for Sunday, June 14, 2015]

Reading: *The Making of America*, pages 336-351

Chapter 13: The Organization of Congress II

Pre-lesson questions for homework study and review: [*Supplemental* notes are bracketed]
[287 Constitution Provisions “principles” in text.]

1. WHAT PROVISION IS MADE FOR EACH HOUSE OF CONGRESS TO KEEP A RECORD OF ITS PROCEEDINGS?

Provision 55 – Each House to keep a journal [of it’s proceedings]

o voluminous [“Congressional Record”– digest indexes the record]

HOW OFTEN IS THE RECORD PUBLISHED? (PAGES 336-37)

Provision 56 – Journal to be published

o How often?

o [Since] 1873 every day as Congressional Record.

o May be printed differently than spoken n the floor – “courtesy”

2. WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO REQUIRE A RECORDED VOTE IN CONGRESS ON A PARTICULAR ISSUE? (338-39)

Provision 57 – Secret Material may be kept from the journal

o “Executive Session” are secret sessions [for example, war time discussions]

o Secrets not kept for long - they are leaked

Provision 58 – Decisions settled by vote.

o Yeas and Nays

o Member can raise question of “no quorum”

Provision 59 – 1/5 can request recorded vote

o very time consuming

o Senate calls name

o House - electronic card

o Yea, Nay, Present [and ‘did not vote’]

3. HOW DID THE FOUNDERS ENSURE THAT BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS WOULD MEET AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE? (340)

Provision 60 – Both houses must adjourn together.

o Separate adjournment could be used to defeat bills.

o No more than 3 days between endings

o If can’t agree, President can adjourn.

Provision 61 – Cannot vote to meet separately at another place.

o Could also frustrate legislation.

4. WHAT PROVISIONS DOES THE CONSTITUTION MAKE FOR CONGRESSIONAL PAY?

Provision 62 – Pay set by Congress and paid by Congress.

o Parliament = no salary until 1893

- o Articles of Confed had Each state pay delegates.

WHO OBJECTED TO CONGRESS BEING ABLE TO SET ITS OWN SALARY? (341-45)

- o Madison said “indecent” to fix own salary.

- o 1789 = \$6/day.

- o See chart p. 341 [raised to \$1500 annual, 1813]

- o 1815 many were defeated for voting themselves a salary. [Replaced with \$8.00]

Congressional Benefits

- o Paid by Federal Government

- o Liberal retirement

- o Life Insurance

- o Health Insurance

- o High salaried fed jobs after

- o Special Tax Deductions

- o Travel Allowance

- o Staff monies [500M!]

- o Free medical care

- o Free Postage [signature of member = stamp]

5. WHAT IMMUNITIES ARE PROVIDED TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS? (346-47)

Provision 63

Congressmen immune from arrest to and from sessions

- o except for treason, felony, or breach of peace

- o historically arrested for alleged debt

- o prevent voting on a critical issue

- o obsolete now

Provision 64 – Immune from libel or slander while speaking on floor

- o Libel = false written statement

- o Slander = false verbal statement

- o Ensures freedom of speech to investigate charges or rumors

6. WHAT DOES THE CONSTITUTION SAY ABOUT SENATORS OR REPRESENTATIVES ACCEPTING NON-ELECTIVE, PAID POSITIONS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

Provision 65 – May take no federal job created while in Congress or salary increased

- o Possible bribes for well-paying jobs

- o Does not apply to state offices

WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES BECOMING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS? (347-51)

Provision 66 – No gov employee may at same time be in Congress.

- o Example of Henry VIII.

- o Would destroy the Check and Balance system.

- o Wilson quote: [It prevents Intrigues & Corruption, It prevents ‘double dipping’]

IS IT NOT AMAZING TO SEE HOW MANY OF THESE “PROVISIONS” ARE ALMOST TIMELESS? OVER 227 YEARS AGO AND MANY STILL unchanged!

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Part Two, The Making of America:

Name: _____

Quiz- Lesson 23

1. THE JOURNAL CONGRESS IS REQUIRED TO KEEP AND PUBLISH IS CALLED THE

2. MOST VOTES ARE NOT _____, BUT _____ (GIVE FRACTION) OF THOSE PRESENT MAY REQUEST A RECORDED ROLL CALL.

3. EACH HOUSE OF CONGRESS CANNOT ADJOURN MORE THAN _____ DAYS

WITHOUT THE _____ OF _____

4. NEITHER HOUSE MAY VOTE TO MEET AT A DIFFERENT _____ WITHOUT THE

_____ OF _____.

5. WHO DECIDES WHAT CONGRESSIONAL SALARIES WILL BE? _____ IN THE

BEGINNING THEY WERE: \$ _____ PER DAY. CURRENTLY THEY ARE HOW MUCH?

\$ _____.

6. GIVE TWO BENEFITS A CONGRESSMAN RECEIVES IN ADDITION TO HIS SALARY.

_____.

7. GIVE TWO MORE BENEFITS A CONGRESSMAN RECEIVES IN ADDITION TO HIS SALARY.

_____.

8. ORIGINALLY, THE FOUNDERS WANTED TO MAKE SURE A CONGRESSMAN COULD NOT BE

_____ AS THEY CAME TO AND FROM CONGRESS, EXCEPT FOR WHAT OFFENSES?

_____.

9. WHAT IMMUNITY IS PROVIDED CONGRESSMEN CONCERNING SPEECH AND DEBATE ON THE FLOOR? _____

10. WHAT RESTRICTION IS THERE ON A CONGRESSMAN ABOUT TAKING A FEDERAL JOB AFTER HE LEAVES CONGRESS? _____

11. WHAT RESTRICTION IS THERE ABOUT A PERSON WHO WORKS FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND WANTS TO RUN FOR CONGRESS? _____