

Part Two, The Making of America:
Lesson 24: The Legislative Process

Name: _____

(Lesson Time 44:39)

[for Sunday, June 21, 2015]

Reading: *The Making of America*, pages 353-368

Chapter 14: The Legislative Process

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

The Legislative Process Part I

- o Over 20,000 bills introduced each session

- o Two kinds of bills

 - General welfare - dealing with the whole country

 - Private welfare - dealing with specific people or groups = no authority for these

1. DESCRIBE THE FOUR BASIC RESTRAINTS ON LAWMAKING ACCORDING TO THE FOUNDERS.

(PAGES 354-55)

Legislative Restraints

- o People cannot delegate what they [themselves] cannot do.

- o Legislative authority cannot be delegated. [illus - people gave Congress power to regulate money and they delegated it to the Federal Reserve (1913)]

- o Any statute is null and void if it violates natural law [there is not gravity= unnatural law]

- o Law must not destroy equality and justice.

2. WHY DID THE FOUNDERS GIVE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE SOLE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE REVENUE BILLS? (355-57)

Provision 67 – Revenue bills originate in House.

- o Reps must account to voters every 2 years.

- o House is where taxation follows representation.

- o Prevent the Senate from taxing the people.

Provision 68 – Senate may propose amendments or concur.

3. WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT'S ROLE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS?

Provision 69 – Every bill passed by the House and Senate shall be presented to President.

DESCRIBE THE OPTIONS HE HAS WHEN CONGRESS PASSES A BILL AND PRESENTS IT FOR HIS SIGNATURE. (357-61)

Provision 70 – If President approves, he signs it.

Provision 71 – If President does not approve, he vetoes it and returns it with reasons.

4. WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS THE FOUNDERS MADE REGARDING THEIR NEWLY INVENTED LEGISLATIVE PROCESS? (361-63)

Provision 72 – 2/3 of both houses may override veto.

Provision 73 – If President does not act within ten days, it becomes law.

Provision 74 – If Congress adjourns before the 10 day period, then the bill does NOT become law.

- o Known as “Pocket Veto”

Provision 75 – Everything requiring both houses must go to President

o Not totally correct. Some items do not need President's review:

- Amendments to the Constitution
- Suspension of President's war power
- Internal congressional matters

5. DESCRIBE HOW A BILL IS INITIATED, HOW IT'S INTRODUCED IN EACH HOUSE OF CONGRESS, AND WHAT HAPPENS TO IT BEFORE IT GETS A HEARING BEFORE A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE. (363-64)

Legislative Process

o Bill is introduced [Most come from govt officials.]

- example of Individual "In God We Trust" on Coins
- House - in Hopper
- in Senate - read by Senator (title and subject)

o Given a number

- HR 3 [House of Representatives Bill]
- S-3 [Senate Bill]
- S Res-3 [Senate Resolution]

6. TELL HOW A BILL MAY BE SCRUTINIZED DURING THE HEARING PROCESS. (364-65)

o Assigned to a Committee

o Hearings - voted on by Committee [many ways to die here]

7. DESCRIBE THE CALENDARING PROCESS IN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE. (365-66)

o Placed on Calendar

- Union Calendar - money bills
- House Calendar - public bills
- Private Calendar - private bills [what? Why this? Not proper!]

o Rules Committee [determines constitutionality, many can die here too.]

- 30 day limit can be called up again

o Floor debate and vote

- Committee of the Whole (COW)
- Filibuster in the Senate

8. EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENS TO A PIECE OF LEGISLATION WHEN IT REACHES THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OR SENATE. (366-67)

o Other house - starts all over again

o Different Version?

9. DESCRIBE WHERE A BILL GOES AFTER IT PASSES THE HOUSE IN WHICH IT ORIGINATED.

o Assigned to Conference Committee

o Re-voted by both houses

o To the President (veto's or signs)

- line item veto [dangerous- can become one-person making law]

WHY DID THE FOUNDERS WANT TO SUBJECT PROPOSED LAWS TO SUCH INTENSE SCRUTINY? (367-68)

[Complexity forces only the most important of issues to be dealt with.]

Lesson 24: *The Legislative Process*

(Lesson Time 44:39)

[for Sunday, June 21, 2015]

Reading: *The Making of America*, pages 353-368

Chapter 14: The Legislative Process

Part Two, The Making of America:

Name: _____

QUIZ - LESSON 24

1. WHAT ARE THE TWO KINDS OF BILLS INTRODUCED INTO THE U. S. CONGRESS TODAY?

WHICH KIND IS OUTSIDE THE LIMITS OF THE CONSTITUTION?

2. GIVE TWO RESTRAINTS THE FOUNDERS HELD TO IN MAKING LAW.

3. GIVE TWO ADDITIONAL RESTRAINTS THE FOUNDERS HELD TO IN MAKING LAW.

4. WHERE MUST ALL REVENUE BILLS ORIGINATE?

5. LIST THE THREE OPTIONS THE PRESIDENT HAS IN CONSIDERING A BILL PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

6. WHAT VOTE IS NECESSARY FOR CONGRESS TO OVERRIDE A PRESIDENTS VETO?

7. HOW LONG DOES THE PRESIDENT HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION ON A BILL?

8. ASSUMING CONGRESS IS IN SESSION, WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PRESIDENT TAKES NO ACTION ON A BILL?

9. IF CONGRESS ADJOURNS AND THE PRESIDENT TAKES NO ACTION ON A BILL, WHAT BECOMES OF IT? _____

THIS IS KNOWN AS A _____

10. NAME TWO LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS THAT ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE SCRUTINY OF THE PRESIDENT.

11. NAME THE FIRST TWO STEPS A BILL GOES THROUGH IN CONGRESS.

12. NAME THE NEXT TWO STEPS A BILL GOES THROUGH IN CONGRESS.

13. NAME TWO ADDITIONAL STEPS A BILL MAY GO THROUGH AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING THE PROCESS.
