

Lesson 30: Three More Powers of Congress

(Lesson Time 28:17)

[for Sunday, August 30, 2015]

Reading: *The Making of America*, pages 426-430

(Chapter 17) Three More Powers of Congress

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

1. EXPLAIN THE ADVANTAGE OF HAVING FIXED STANDARDS FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES. WHY WAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GIVEN THE AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH SUCH STANDARDS?

(PAGE 426)

Provision 88

Fix Standards of Weights and Measures

o Common Market

o Only way to prevent fraud is to have a uniform standards

2. EXPLAIN THE UNITS USED IN THE ENGLISH SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES. WHERE DID THE METRIC SYSTEM COME FROM? WHY DID AMERICANS PREFER THE ENGLISH SYSTEM? (427)

o Standards in days of Magna Carta – liquid, cloth, weights (1215 AD) [Old Testament has them too!]

English system adopted

o 1838 officially adopted by Congress

- Pound, ounce, mile, foot, yard, gallon, quart

- gallon [originally a wine gallon] = 231 cubic inches

- bushel (dry) = 8 gallons (Anglo - Saxons)

- barrels for large fruit

- baskets for vegetables

French Metric System

o French wanted nothing English

o Congress rejected but later allowed use for scientific work

o meter - length

o liter - volume

o gram - weight

English is easier to use

o French divides into fifths and tenths

o English divides into halves and quarters

Each state delivered standards

3. HOW HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDIZED WEIGHTS AND MEASURES THROUGHOUT THE FIFTY STATES? (427)

o 1881 Secretary of Treasury responsible

o Originally only set standards

- o Enforcement left to the states
- o Fed Gov has become enforcement agent (quote, p 427)

4. WHICH DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT IS GIVEN AUTHORITY OVER COUNTERFEITING? (428)

Provision 89

Punishment of Counterfeiters

- o Secret Service enforces (branch of Treasury)
- o Counterfeiting easier before Civil War

5. IDENTIFY SEVERAL INSTANCES WHEN IT WAS RELATIVELY EASY TO COUNTERFEIT MONEY USED IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE. (428)

- o Many printing paper money - even foreigners

6. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS COUNTERFEITING HAS BEEN MADE MORE DIFFICULT? (428)

- o New money with metal strips makes counterfeiting more difficult

7. DESCRIBE THE EVOLUTION OF THE U.S. POSTAL SYSTEM PRIOR TO THE CONSTITUTION. (428-29)

Provision 90

Establish Post Offices

- o first post office - 1639
- o 1753 Ben Franklin - Postmaster General
 - only time in history of PO when operated at profit
- o 1847 first stamps
- o 1863 charged by weight not distance
- o 1918 air mail begins

4 Classes of mail

- o First Class- includes hand written – sealed against inspection
- o Second Class- newspapers, magazines
- o Third Class- bulk mail by weight
- o Fourth Class [parcel post] – over 8 ounces

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QUIZ - LESSON 30

1. BECAUSE OF FRAUD IN TRADE UNDER THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION, THE FOUNDERS

DETERMINED THEY NEEDED RELIABLE STANDARDS OF _____ AND

2. IN 1838, CONGRESS OFFICIALLY ADOPTED WHAT SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES?

3. NAME FIVE STANDARD UNITS UNDER THIS SYSTEM.

4. WHICH NATION DEVELOPED THE METRIC SYSTEM? _____

5. WHY IS THE ENGLISH SYSTEM STILL PREFERRED GENERALLY BY AMERICANS?

6. IN 1881, CONGRESS AUTHORIZED THE DELIVERY OF A COMPLETE SET OF WEIGHTS AND

MEASURES TO EACH _____ .

7. ORIGINALLY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS ONLY TO _____ STANDARDS NOT

_____ THEM.

8. NAME ONE WAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME AN ENFORCER IN THIS AREA.

9. WHICH AGENCY OF GOVERNMENT HAS THE JURISDICTION OVER COUNTERFEITING?

10. WHY WAS COUNTERFEITING RELATIVELY EASY BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR?

11. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO MAKE COUNTERFEITING MORE DIFFICULT?

12. THE FOUNDERS GAVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A POSTAL

SYSTEM TO ENSURE _____ AND _____

13. THE ONLY TIME IN HISTORY THE POSTAL SYSTEM OPERATED AT A PROFIT WAS WHEN

_____ WAS POSTMASTER GENERAL.

14. AT FIRST, POSTAL RATES WERE SET ACCORDING TO _____.

15. WHAT IS FIRST-CLASS MAIL? _____

16. WHAT IS SECOND-CLASS MAIL? _____

17. WHAT IS THIRD-CLASS MAIL? _____

18. WHAT IS FOURTH-CLASS MAIL? _____