

Lesson 46: Amendments 17-27

(Less. Time 51:50)

[for Sunday, March 13, 2016]

Reading: *The Making of America*, pages 745-763

(Chapter 31) Amendments 17-27

Pre-lesson questions for homework study and review: [Supplemental notes are bracketed]

[287 Constitution Provisions “principles” in text.]

1. HOW DID THE SEVENTEENTH AMENDMENT CHANGE THE WAY U.S. SENATORS ARE CHOSEN? (PAGES 746-47)

Provision 266 – Senators to be elected by the people of the states (17)

o Originally, senate represented:

- states – chosen by state legislatures - established order of things

o Pressure to let people elect the Senators

- corruption in state legislatures

[- lost seriousness and absence of emotionalism typical in H of Rep]

2. HOW IS A VACANCY IN THE SENATE FILLED? (747-48)

267 – Senate vacancy filled by special election of appointment of governor.

3. EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE AND THE EFFECT OF THE EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT. (748-49)

268 – Liquor prohibited (18) 1919

o 1st time seven-year limit for ratification was used

o by 1916, nineteen states were legally dry

o wrong level of government for such a rule

4. WHAT DID THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT ACCOMPLISH? (749-50)

269 – Voting rights to women (19)

o Originally men represented vote for the family

o Several states had given women the right to vote prior to 1920

o “Women will clean up politics” [problem – it cancelled out the man’s vote; better left to states]

5. HOW DID THE TWENTIETH AMENDMENT AFFECT THE TERMS OF SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, THE PRESIDENT, AND THE VICE PRESIDENT?

270 – Congress terms end and begin on January 3rd (20)

o Original date March 4th

o Prevented “lame-duck” Congressmen

HOW DID IT AFFECT THE BEGINNING DATE OF SESSIONS OF CONGRESS? (750-52)

271 – President and VP terms to begin on January 20th

272 – Congress to meet annually on January 3rd

6. WHAT THREE PROVISIONS OF THE TWENTIETH AMENDMENT ARE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT IS FILLED AT ALL TIMES? (752-54)

273 – VP-elect to take office if President-elect unable

274 – Congress to select temporary president if pres-elect and vp-elect unable to serve

275 – Congress to determine if candidate dies if election is in House

7. What was the purpose and the effect of the Twenty-first Amendment?

276 – Repeal of Prohibition (21)

o Returned regulation to states

o Did not legalize liquor

HOW EFFECTIVE HAD THE EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT BEEN? (754-55)

o Problems with enforcement of 18th Amendment [highlights federal level problems of this kind]

- Veterans returning from Europe drank

- Relaxed social standards after W. W. I

- Social status to those who could procure

- Corruption of judges and police officers

- did not allow for cultural differences

8. WHAT DID THE TWENTY-SECOND AMENDMENT ACCOMPLISH? WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT ITS PASSAGE? (755-56)

277 – President limited to two terms (22)

o FDR broke tradition to win 3rd & 4th term

[best term limit is “ballot box” - if president unwanted, can choose not to continue]

278 – If VP serves more than 2 years as president, he can run only once more.

9. EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE AND PROVISIONS OF THE TWENTY-THIRD AMENDMENT. (757)

279 – Presidential electors for DC (23)

- o Number to be no more than the least state [1 Rep + 2 Sens]
- o Counted as though DC were a state
- o Erodes neutrality of DC
- o Allow people from DC to vote with Maryland [better option than creating new state imbalance]

10. WHAT DID THE TWENTY-FOURTH AMENDMENT ACCOMPLISH?

280 – Cannot prohibit a person from vote who hasn't paid his taxes (24)

WHY WAS IT THOUGHT TO BE NECESSARY? (758)

- o Some people felt requiring a small tax at the polls kept poor people from voting

11. WHAT PROVISION DOES THE TWENTY-FIFTH AMENDMENT MAKE TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE OFFICES OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT? (758-59)

281 – VP who becomes President shall choose another VP (25)

- o Approval only by majority of Congress
- o Leads to an *unelected* President and *unelected* VP

12. UNDER THE TWENTY-FIFTH AMENDMENT, HOW CAN A PRESIDENT BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE? (759-60)

282 – President may relinquish and take back his office

- o Done for disability of any kind [example: Ron Reagan, nose operation period]

13. WHAT TWO SERIOUS FLAWS CAN YOU FIND IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH AMENDMENT? (761-62)

283 – VP and majority of cabinet may declare President unable and take over as acting Pres.

- o Power to make the change is in hands of him who will benefit!
- o Could lead to serious abuse of elective process

284 – President may request his job back but VP may continue

- o VP prevents President from assuming constitutionally delegated duties [happened after Kennedy assassination, rushed without thinking through it's ramifications– a controversial and problem Amendment on several counts]

285 – Dispute settled by both houses

- o If not in session, has two days to assemble
- o Take up to 21 days to reach a decision
- o Could lead to having leaders who have not been elected – a tool of the “kingmakers” (see scenario, pp. 761-762) [Agnew-Ford close scenario]

14. WHAT DID THE TWENTY-SIXTH AMENDMENT ACCOMPLISH? (762-63)

286 – Voting rights extended to all 18 and older (26)

- o Quickest approved amendment
- o “old enough to fight, old enough to vote”

15. THE CONSTITUTION NOW HAS A TWENTY-SEVENTH AMENDMENT, RATIFIED ON MAY 7, 1992. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT DOES? (NOTE: THIS AMENDMENT WAS FIRST PROPOSED BY JAMES MADISON AND WAS PART OF THE ORIGINAL BILL OF RIGHTS WHICH CONGRESS SENT TO THE STATES FOR THEIR APPROVAL IN 1789. IT FINALLY PASSED 203 YEARS LATER!)

287 – Congress cannot receive a pay increase till after next election (27)

- o An amendment originating with James Madison in 1789 (p.226)
- o Floated without ratification until 1992 (203 years)

16. HOW MANY SEPARATE PROVISIONS ARE CONTAINED IN THE CONSTITUTION AND ITS AMENDMENTS?

Summary of Provisions **287 = almost 87% have not changed!**

HOW MANY HAVE SUFFERED SERIOUS EROSION OVER THE YEARS? IS THERE A SOLUTION? (763)

- o Only 38 have suffered significant neglect or mutilation
- o **These 38 are the most important in preserving divided, limited, balanced government**
- o Tyranny begins with ignorance (p.263 quote)

Lesson 45: Amendments 17-27

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[SIMPLIFIED] QUIZ - LESSON 46

1. THE FOUNDERS INITIALLY GAVE THE _____ A HOUSE IN CONGRESS SO THAT

_____ RIGHTS COULD BE GUARDED.

2. WHAT DID THE 17TH AMENDMENT DO?

_____ OF _____ BY _____

3. WHAT DAMAGE DID IT DO TO OUR STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT?

THE _____ OF _____ RIGHTS TO THE _____

4. WHAT DID THE 18TH AMENDMENT DO?

_____ OF _____

5. WHAT DID THE 19TH AMENDMENT DO?

GRANTED W _____ V _____ R _____

6. WHAT DID THE 20TH AMENDMENT DO?

C _____ THE T _____ AND O _____ – TAKING OF THE

P _____ AND C _____

7. WHAT DID THE 21 ST AMENDMENT DO?

R _____ THE _____ A _____

8. WHAT DID THE 22ND AMENDMENT DO?

L _____ THE T _____ OF THE P _____ TO _____

9. WHAT DID THE 23RD AMENDMENT DO?

P _____ E _____ SET FOR _____ OF _____

10. WHAT DID THE 24TH AMENDMENT DO?

UNPAID _____ CANNOT KEEP P _____ FROM V _____

11. EXPLAIN ONE REASON THE TWENTY-FIFTH AMENDMENT IS DANGEROUS?

● IT A _____ UNELECTED P _____ IN O _____

● VP AND C _____ CAN R _____ THE P _____

12. WHAT DID THE 26TH AMENDMENT DO?

V _____ R _____ FOR PEOPLE _____, _____, _____.

13. WHAT DID THE 27H AMENDMENT DO?

CONGRESS'S P _____ TO TAKE A _____ ONLY AFTER NEXT E _____