Congress

Lecture 2

I’m Just a Bill – How Congress Works

The Congress of these United States:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Legislative Branch

How a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Becomes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
(page 224)

Simplified How a Bill…

How Many Bills?

How Many Filed?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ annually!

How Many Pass?

Between 400 and 600.

That’s less than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Bill must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by a member of Congress

Bill is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for consideration by either Speaker or presiding officer of the Senate

Revenue bills must originate in the House

Most bills \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in committee

After hearings and mark-up sessions, the committee reports a bill out to the House or Senate

Bill must be placed on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to come for a vote before either house

House \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Committee sets the rules for consideration

Bills are debated on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the House or Senate

If there are major differences in the bill as passed by the House and Senate, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ committee is appointed

The bill must pass with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the same language from both chambers.

The bill goes to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The president may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it

If the president \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it, it returns to house of origin

Both houses must support the bill, with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vote, in order to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the president’s veto

The Work Gets Done In: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Committees

Where the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gets done

Subcommittee

Specialization

Types: Joint (only 2) Special or Select Budget

Standing Conference (not the same as party conferences)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Committees

The Workhorses of Congress

19 Standing Committees in the House

16 in the Senate

88 Subcommittees in the House, 68 in the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – enough members present to hold a vote

House Committees

The Big Three

House \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Sets a rule for each bill about how debate will occur

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bills go through here before making it to the floor

It is the “traffic cop” for whether or not a bill makes it

The House Rules Committee is MUCH more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than the Senate.

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

http://www.house.gov/rules/

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Raises \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the Government

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stop for ALL revenue bills

The “Cadillac” of committees

*NOT* taking is at least as important as giving…

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, credits, loopholes

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

http://waysandmeans.house.gov/

House \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Spends money to fund government

Appropriation: the legal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to expend governmental funds

12 subcommittees!

Oink, oink, oink…

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

http://appropriations.house.gov/

Senate Committees

The Big Three

Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“Court of Appeals” – they add and delete from the original spending plan sent over from the House (Then they conference!)

“Byrd droppings”

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vice Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

http://appropriations.senate.gov/

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Committee for the Senate

The two certainties of life:

Death

Taxes

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ranking Member: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

http://finance.senate.gov/

Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Confirms \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ratifies \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” for executive foreign policy powers.

Former Chair: Joe Biden (DE)

Former Chair: John Kerry (MA)

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ranking Member: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

http://foreign.senate.gov/

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – both parties support the idea

A Bad Reputation is Hard to Shake

These hardy knaves and stupid fools,

Some apish and pragmatic mules,

Some servile, acquiescing tools, these, these compose the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

When Jove resolved to send a curse,

and all the woes of life rehearse,

Not plague, not famine, but much worse –

He cursed us with a Congress

(Ode to the Continental Congress of 1776)

I’m Just a Bill

Next: Paths to Power

Political Organization and the Powers of Congress