

## CONGRESSIONAL POWERS SPECIFICALLY LAID OUT AND ISSUED TO THEM

**Power of the Purse:** Congress has the power to tax (provided they vote and agree upon how to do so), allocate funds to certain parts of the budget. Once the plan is approved (which the textbook notes takes forever, usually a few weeks to months) the president must execute the budget as such.

**Regulating Commerce:** A1S8 is the Commerce Clause which states that Congress shall have the power to regulate interstate commerce. In recent year amidst environmental concerns, Congress has made regulations that apply to shipping and manufacturing facilities and used A1S8 as their source of power to do such things. For example, there are some safety requirements regarding gun safety devices in place as a result. The ACA '10 is another example (where people are required legally to have health insurance).

In *US v Lopez* however, this procedure was shaken in the few times where the Supreme Court has ruled against the national govt.

**International and Military Related Things:** the national government is the only body able to handle international commerce and military action. Congress granted the power to declare wars and allocate money to military assets. While the Power of the Purse (in the name of the military) can be given to both the exec and legis branches, Congress is the only body that can declare war which is an anti-tyranny decision.

However, this power is checked as the President is still the Chief of the Armed Forces, leaving them to send ambassadors and deploy military assets.

**Implied Powers:** somewhere at the end of A1, it is stated that Congress has the power to “make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.” which basically means “you can do things that are technically out of scope if they tie back and benefit something that is in scope.

*McCulloch v MD* is a prime example of this, where Congress was found to have the power to create a bank despite it not being explicitly stated (and MD's taxing of such activity to be unlawful).

## SENATE AND HOUSE POWERS

House:

- Can select and remove presidents
- Can propose and introduce bills
- Can shoot down bills

\Senate:

- Advice and consent: allows senators to recommend or reject appointees such as justices and cabinet members.
- Foreign affairs:  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Senate must agree to enact a treaty.
- Can try the president after impeachment.
- Can propose and introduce bills
- Can shoot down bills