

Notes — Week 14

Michael Brodskiy

Instructor: Mr. Bradshaw

Period 3

- The President of the Senate is the vice president
 - The vice president only votes when there is a tie
- The most powerful members of the senate are:
 - Majority leader
 - Minority leader
 - President Pro Tempore
- Succession:
 1. President
 2. Vice President
 3. Speaker of the House
 4. President Pro Tempore
 5. Secretary of the State
- Inherent Powers — Powers which the national government naturally has to represent the country in relation with other countries
 - Regulate immigration
 - Determine citizenship
 - Declare war
 - Make a treaty
- Other Powers of Congress
 - Investigatory Power

- Oversight of the Executive Branch
- Constitutional Amendments
- Electoral Duties
- Impeachment
- Confirm Appointments
- Committees
 - Congress has been called “a collection of committees that come together periodically to approve one another’s actions”
 - Congress — Does most of its work in committees (around 95% of all work)
 - Most bills don’t make it to the floor, but rather die in committees through the method known as “pigeonholing”. “Pigeonholing” a bill is done by burying the bill on the committee calendar.
- Committee Structure
 - Both houses have organized permanent “standing” committees
 - Standing Committee numbers
 - * House: 21
 - * Senate: 20 (68 subcommittees)
 - For a bill to get to the floor, it must first get a majority vote in at least one standing committee. This is called “reporting out”
- Bills can only be introduced by members of Congress, but anyone can write a bill
- Standing committees will often assign bills to subcommittees to get more information on a topic
- Congress passes between 200 and 400 bills a year (most are naming things)
- Only standing committees can vote a bill up or down
- When the whole House is together, it is called “Committee of the Whole”
- Committees controlled by majority party
- All chairpersons are selected by seniority first
- The speaker, at any time, can replace any chairperson
- According to Article I, Section 7, all tax bills must begin in the House of Representatives
- Conference committees are temporary