

AP Exam Essay 4

The government established back in the late 1700s is a complex layered entity filled with many entitlements and regulations as well as checks and balances. Although the framers of our government established two other branches, the judicial and executive, and established states' rights, they gave a more unique twist on the legislative branch. This branch is bicameral due to the Great Compromise and to have its own check and balance, the House is the only sub-branch able to initiate money bills and the Senate is the only sub-branch with the ability to approve presidential appointments, each with its own reason why.

One of the major decisions of the framers of this legislature system is how each state should be represented. There were some states that demanded it be based on population and other states that demanded that the legislative branch should have equal representation. The framers knew that if they wouldn't be able to appease both desires, the Constitution would not have been easily passed. The Great Compromise solved this argument by granting both desires. This appeased many of the arguing framers and representatives during the Constitutional Convention. This decision also served a second purpose, however. Within the large system of checks and balances, another system was in the legislative branch. The legislative branch makes bills and refines them to become law. Without both houses, there wouldn't be much scrutiny on the bills being presented. Through this bicameral legislature, though, a bill is backed in one house's committee and the approval process and then sent to the other house so that they can read it over and make any changes necessary. It does this multiple times before it is finally sent to the president.

A power particularly granted to the House is the right to start money bills. Not only does this affect society but the Fed as well since the Fed mainly deals with economic affairs. A main reason for this specific power stems from the way representation in the House is handled. With representation being based on population, there are many more in the House than there is in the Senate. This increased amount of representatives serves to give many different views on economic problems or proposed bills. Since economic affairs deals with majoritarian politics, the more people to give their opinion, the better.

The Senate, however, succeeds where the House may fail. In some decisions, too many people voting on one thing becomes inefficient. The Senate has a fixed number of representatives from each state and would therefore have less discrepancy between members. The Senate has the unique power of approving presidential appointments, not only in the Supreme Court but in the Fed as well. With the Senate's smaller size, a decision can be made in less time than it could in the House, thereby decreasing the time

that a seat is left vacant in a pivotal place in our government. Despite the quicker process, the states still get their say in the matter and there is still a formidable check on the president. In addition, members of the Senate serve longer terms, making them wiser when dealing with the intricacies of the government and how each branch should work.

There are special reasons why the framers formed the legislative branch the way they did. Some were for practical reasons and some for reasons unseen to the citizens of the framers' day. If the legislative branch was not made bicameral, the Constitution's ratification may have been prolonged or may not have happened at all. If it weren't bicameral, there would be no checks and balances in a branch with the power to make the laws of our country. The House and Senate each have their own distinct powers due to the practicality of each house. Not only this but also to keep any one sub-branch to have too much power within the legislative branch.