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Dr. Sell

Political Science 120

### **Congress and The Presidency**

Congress as a whole makes laws. When Bills are addressed they must meet the approval of both the House and the Senate in order to become a Law, and then the President can always veto it. Congress also deals with matters of public concern be it something that needs to be investigated or something that needs to be put before the public to raise awareness.

Congress is made up of two parts: The Senate and the House of Representatives. Each is granted different powers and responsibilities. The Senate has the power to approve treaties proposed by the president as well as confirming the president's choice for judges, cabinet members and other officials.(Burns, 308) It also has the power to perform hearings, after the House has voted to impeach a president or federal judge.

The House of Representatives has the authority to propose taxes, but the Senate must approve the bill first. In the House of Representative, the Speaker has a lot more say in how things are run than Senate leaders, who have to rely on persuasion to manage business.(Burns, 306) The House members form committees and subcommittees to debate issues.

“Congress tends to have more power in domestic than foreign affairs.” (Sell Lecture Notes, p.6) Congress shares responsibility with the president in declaring war, negotiating treaties with other countries and proving funds for soldiers and weapons. This is when conflicts come to head. The Vietnam War is a perfect example of this conflict, when the President waged

war without a formal declaration of war from Congress. Because of this Congress then passed the War Powers Act in 1973. (Sell Lecture Notes, p.2)

The Presidency has many responsibilities and powers. This position requires the management of the Country by implementing the laws, nominations of officials, grant pardons, serve as Commander-in-Chief of the military, veto laws passed by Congress, and negotiate treaties. The President is also responsible proposing yearly budgets and helping boost economic development.

The many divided tasks between Congress and the Presidency has made it difficult for agreements to be made and has caused much conflict. This is what the framers of the Constitution was relying on when they divided the powers and responsibilities so that checks and balances were put in place for all three branches of the government. (Burns, 329) Examples of issues in conflict are decisions on how health insurance should be reformed and Social Security policies.

Works Cited

Burns, James. Government by the People. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc., 2001.

Young, William D.. Source Readings for American Government. Orlando: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1999.

Sell, T.M. Lecture Notes. Congress and The Presidency.