**Congress at Work- Chapter 12**

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| **Opening Day in HOR:*** Congress begins a new term **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** In the House, the members elect a Speaker, who takes the oath of office and **\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.* Next the House adopts the rules for the current term.
* These rules have developed for over 200 years and are occasionally amended or expanded.
* Democrats sit on the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** side of the aisle and Republicans sit on the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** side of the aisle.
* The House then appoints the members of the **\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Opening Day in the Senate:*** **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** is elected every two years, so newly elected members are simply sworn in and vacancies for officers and committees filled. (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) |
| **State of the Union Speech*** The President delivers the State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress a few weeks after it is organized – typically end of January early February. (A2, S3)
* In addition to describing the general state of national affairs, the President describes **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, requesting that Congress pass specific pieces of legislation. | **Leadership in Congress:*** Speaker of the House
* President of the Senate
* President Pro Tempore of the Senate
* Majority & Minority Leaders in the House & Senate
* Whips
* Committee Chairmen
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| **Speaker of the House:*** The Speaker of the House is the presiding officer of the House **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, a powerful combination.
* Democrat **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**to serve as Speaker in 2007. She is currently the Speaker again of the 116th Congress.
* The Speaker presides and keeps order.
* The Speaker chairs most sessions of the House.
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
* The Speaker interprets and applies rules and procedures, refers bills to committees, and puts motions to a vote.
* The Speaker also names the members of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**.** | **President of the Senate:*** The Constitution names **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** as the Senate’s presiding officer.* The President of the Senate can recognize members, put questions to a vote, and so forth, but cannot take part in debates and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*** The **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**is a member of the Senate's majority party elected to serve as Senate leader in the Vice President's absence.
* #3 in succession
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| **Party Caucus:*** A party caucus is a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in each house.* The caucus discusses policy issues and selects the party’s floor leaders and committee chairs.

**FLOOR LEADERS*** The floor leaders are **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*** The **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**in each house and controls the order of business on the floor. | **Whips:*** The party **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**who help connect the party leadership with the rank-and-file members.* The whips **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and helps see that members are present for key votes.
* Whips are liaisons between party leadership and party members to help gather intel on votes and make sure party members are present at important votes
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| **Committee Chairmen:*** Committee chairs have a major say **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if public hearings will be held, and what witnesses will be called.* Chosen by majority party typically at caucus.
 | **The Seniority Rule:*** The seniority rule in an unwritten custom granting the most important posts in Congress, such as committee chairmen, **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.* Critics say this rule ignores ability, discourages younger members, and limits fresh ideas.
* Supporters say the rule ensures **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and is easy to apply without sparking debates.
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| **Standing Committees:*** When a bill is introduced in either house, it is referred to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.* The fate of most bills is decided in committee rather than on the floor of either house.
* Permanent committee
* 20 in House – 10-75 members – assigned 1-2 committees
* 16 in Senate – 14-28 members – assigned 3-4 committees
* 4 joint
* Members want to be on important committees – that’s their resume!
* Members of each standing committee are elected by a floor vote at the beginning of each term of Congress.
	+ Committee chairmen are chosen according to the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
 | **The House Rules Committee*** The House Rules Committee **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** The Senate does NOT have a rules committee.* Bills that leave their standing committee must then be scheduled for floor consideration by the Rules Committee.
* This power lets the Rules Committee **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** House action on a measure. |
| Other Committees:* **Select Committee –** special community set up for a specific purpose and only for a limited time
* **Joint Committee –** includes members from both the House and the Senate
* **Sub Committee –** every standing committee has a sub committee which is responsible for part of the workload
* **Conference Committee –** before a bill is sent to the President both Houses have to pass an identical bill. If it is adjusted in one house it must go to a conference committee – which is a joint, temporary body which irons out the differences in the bills, and put forward a compromise bill both Houses will pass
 | Answer the following questions on your own sheet of paper, staple them to your notes and turn in.1. Why are committees important to the law-making process?
2. How does the majority party have an advantage in both committees and leadership?
3. Why does the HOR have a rules committee and the Senate Does NOT?
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