**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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **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. |
| **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? |