

Taxing and Spending

Taxes

- House
 - Ways and Means Committee
 - Decides whether to go along with president's plan
 - Determines rules and regulations of tax code
 - Used to operate under a Closed rule
 - Revolt of 1974 and Wilbur Mills scandal ended the closed rule
 - Tax bills are now often Christmas tree bills
- Senate
 - Tax bills begin in House but Senate can offer amendments
 - Senate Finance Committee

Appropriating Money

- Has to be done before money can be spent
- Two step process
 - Authorization bill
 - Appropriations bill
- Appropriations committees
 - Often develop close relationships with agencies and programs they fund
 - Addition of interest groups create iron triangles
- Uncontrollable Expenses
 - Mandatory or nondiscretionary spending
 - Entitlements
 - Interest

Influencing Congress

Influences on Lawmakers

- Personality
 - Trustee v. Delegate
- Staff
- Voters
 - District v. Nation
 - Pork
- Parties
 - Most reliable predictor of voting
 - Organization of Congress
 - Party of the President
- President
 - Honeymoon
 - Television
 - Personal persuasion
 - LBJ
- Interest Groups
 - Lobbying
 - PACs

Helping Constituents

Two Ways to Get Reelected

- Casework
 - Importance of staff
 - Purposes
 - Reelection
 - Oversight of Executive
 - Help citizens
- Helping the District or State
 - Pork Barrel Legislation
 - Logrolling
 - Winning Grants and Contracts
 - Building Power Behind the Scenes
 - John Warner