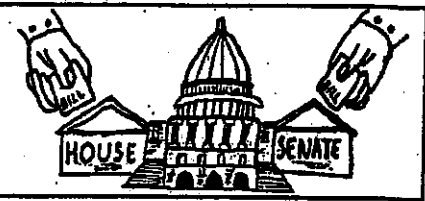


POWERS OF CONGRESS

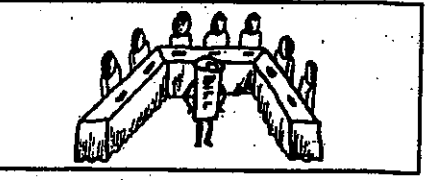
Congress has the power to make laws. All laws start out as bills (proposed laws).

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

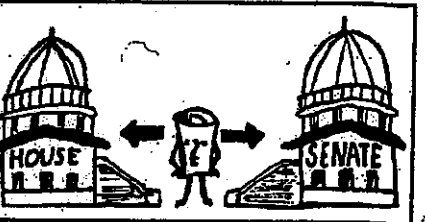
Introduction of a Bill. Bills can start in either house of Congress. All spending bills must start in the House of Representatives. Once proposed, the bill is sent to a committee (group of legislators dealing with specific issues such as foreign affairs).



Committee Stage. Committee members investigate the bill and debate whether to approve, amend, or "kill" it. If approved, the bill is sent to the floor for debate.



Consideration of the Bill. On the floor of the house, the bill is debated. Then it is either approved or "killed." If approved, the bill is sent to the other legislative body, where it is sent to a committee. If approved by the committee, the bill is sent to the other house.

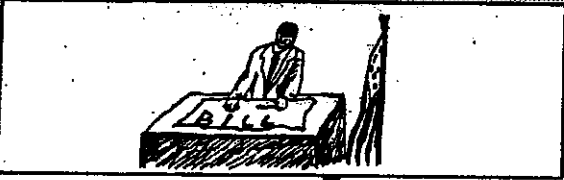


Consideration by the Other House. On the floor of the second house, the bill is again debated. Then it is either approved or "killed." If the same version of the bill is approved by both houses, it is then sent to the President.

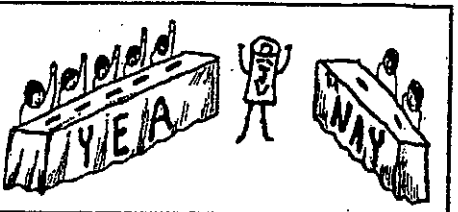


The President. If the President signs the bill, it then becomes the law of the land. If the bill is vetoed (rejected) by the President, the veto can be overridden.

Conference Committee. If differences exist between the Senate and House versions, a Conference Committee, made up of members of both houses, "irons out" differences between the versions. Then they send the bill to the President.



Overriding A Veto. Congress can override a Presidential veto; it requires two-thirds of the members of each house to vote again in favor of the bill.



Purpose is by Difficult

idea on paper -> Bill

**The Powers of Congress as Stated (by Clause)
in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution**

| Expressed Powers |
|--|
| <p>Peace Powers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To lay taxes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Direct (not used since the War Between the States, except income tax) b. Indirect (customs [tariffs], excise for internal revenue) 2. To borrow money 3. To regulate foreign and interstate commerce 4. To establish naturalization and bankruptcy laws 5. To coin money and regulate its value; to regulate weights and measures 6. To punish counterfeiters of federal money and securities 7. To establish post offices and post roads 8. To grant patents and copyrights 9. To create courts inferior to the Supreme Court 10. To define and punish piracies and felonies on the high seas; to define and punish offenses against the law of nations 17. To exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia; to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over forts, dockyards, national parks, federal buildings, and the like |
| <p>War Powers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. To declare war; to grant letters of marque and reprisal; to make rules concerning captures on land and water 12. To raise and support armies 13. To provide and maintain a navy 14. To make laws governing land and naval forces 15. To provide for calling forth the militia to execute federal laws, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions 16. To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for its governing when in the service of the Union |
| <p align="center">Implied Powers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. To make all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To define and provide punishment for federal crimes To establish the Federal Reserve System To improve rivers, canals, harbors, and other waterways To fix minimum wages, maximum hours of work |

Special Powers of the House and Senate

| House | Senate |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To select the President if no candidate receives a majority of the electoral vote | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To select the Vice President if no candidate has a majority of the electoral vote |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring impeachment charges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To act as jury in cases of impeachment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To originate all revenue (money) bills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ratify treaties (by a two-thirds vote) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve presidential appointments (by a majority vote) |