Crafton Hills College POLIT 100 Prof. Hellerman

Lecture #15: Congress

I. The Constitution and Framers' Intentions

A. House: "Electorally sensitive" to represent the people

1. 435 Representatives (districts); two-year terms, elected by the people

B. Senate: "Electorally insulated" to represent the states (elite)

1. 100 members (2 per state); six-year terms

- 2. Originally chosen by state legislatures (until 1913: Amendment XVII)
- II. Issue: "Delegate" vs. "Trustee" Models

III. Motivations of an Individual Legislator (Fenno and Fiorina)

IV. Issue: Deliberation vs. "Log Rolling"

- V. House vs. Senate: A Comparison (chart)
- VI. Checks and Balances
 - A. On President
 - 1. Impeachment;
 - 2. Veto Over-ride (2/3 both Houses)
 - 3. "Advise and Consent" on Treaties (2/3) and Appointments (Senate)
 - 4. "Power of the Purse"
 - 5. War Powers Act (?)
 - B. On Courts
 - 1. Impeachment
 - 2. Approve Judicial Appointments (Senate)
 - 3. Statutory Action and Revision

VII. Business through Committees

- A. Leadership Choices
- B. Select and Standing Committees; Joint Committees (Conference)
- C. Organization and Process through Party Control

VIII. Main Responsibilities of the US Legislative Branch

A. Law-making

- B. Raising revenue and spending it (appropriations and budget)
- C. Creation of Executive departments and agencies
- D. Oversight " "
- D. "Advise and Consent" (Senate)
- E. Constituent Services

IX. Legislative Process (re: chart in text)