

APGoPo Unit 5

INFLUENCES ON MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

CONSTITUENT VIEWS

- ***If a member votes according to how his/her constituents want him/her to vote without regard for his/her own conscience***
 - Said to act in the ***delegate*** role and engage in representational voting
 - Vote do members vote as a delegate?
 - Members were elected to represent the people and enact their will
 - Fear of upsetting constituents and losing re-election

MEMBERS' OWN VIEWS

- ***If a member votes according to his/her own beliefs as to what is best***
 - Said to act in the ***trustee*** role and engage in attitudinal voting
 - Why do members vote as a trustee?
 - Access to information
 - Expertise
 - Divided constituency
 - Uninformed constituency
 - Saliency (extent to which the issue is relevant to you) of issue
 - Difficulty determining what voters want

PARTY AFFILIATION

- ***If a member votes according to how his/her political party wants him/her to vote***
 - Said to act as a ***partisan*** and engage in partisan voting
 - Best predictor of congressional voting
 - Strong influence on economic and social welfare issues
 - Less influence on foreign policy and civil liberties issues
 - Vote as a partisan because of:
 - Pressure party leaders put on members to vote according to party views
 - Use of reciprocity among members (exchange of favors)
 - Use of logrolling among members (exchange of votes)

THE PRESIDENT

- Can reward or punish members, particularly those within his own party
- He can campaign for or against members
- He can attend or not attend members' fund raisers
- He can speak out for or against members
- He can use his "electronic throne" to gain leverage