Mr. Beckett

US History

Legislative Branch Simulation

Hey, Congress! You have been slotted into the roles of congressmen and women from the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States of America. Two separate scenarios are hereby enacted – one with three parts – to show you the big pictures of congressional actions.

**1st Scenario – The Legislative Process. How a bill becomes a law.**

**Overall –** Two groups. Each group is composed of three members from the House and at least 2 members of the Senate.

**Objective –** Each group will attempt to resolve the conundrum involving the United States’ budget deficit (yearly) and the overall debt (cumulative). Will you cut spending? Will you raise taxes? Will you do both? Do you have an alternative idea? Hmmmmm? Create legislation to temporarily address the issue or seek a permanent solution to the matter.

**The Debt –** The projected federal budget deficit for the year stands at $589 **BILLION** dollars (spent more than taken in from taxes and duties). The overall federal debt (money owed in federal treasuries) is $17,770,000,000,000 **TRILLION** dollars.

You have a packet of information -- a few years old, but still relevant -- involving tax revenue (who pays and how much) and the federal budget (how much money is spent and where the dollars are allocated) to educate you about the money situation our government faces. Each group can noodle what to do, but in order for legislation to make it to me (el presidente) senators and representatives from each group must agree to the wording of your bills.

**2nd Scenario – The Confirmation Process. How a Supreme Court Justice is Appointed.**

**Overall –** 1 group. As many senators that can be mustered.

**Objective** – The one group of senators will google and ponder the nomination of Diane Pamela Wood, reportedly on President Obama’s short list of candidates should a justice retire, resign or die. You decide whether this candidate is fit for the lifetime appointment to the United States Supreme Court. Does the candidate fit your qualifications? Will, in your opinion, she uphold the laws pertaining to the United States Constitution? Will she be politically biased? Do you like her? You make the call.

Any 1 senator can block the nomination by calling for “unanimous consent”, which means 3/5 of the senators must approve the continuing debate. Once that happens, it takes a simple majority to affirm the President’s nomination.

I will also provide an upfront magazine about how the Supreme Court works to aid your endeavor.

You make the call!!!