

## 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