

opportunity offers, and altogether embodies the tyranny of the majority over the minority which is so marked a feature of American party government. As it rests entirely with the Speaker to say what members shall constitute any particular committee, his influence over the course of legislation is very extensive; and politically considered, he stands second only to the President of the Republic.

Leaving now the House, after having thus briefly referred to its leading features, and turning to the Senate, we note that its functions are three-fold, namely, executive, legislative and judicial. In its executive functions, the Senate comes in touch with the President. In the making of treaties, and in the appointment of ambassadors, consuls, federal judges, and the higher officials of the Republic, the President is advised by the Senate; and his appointments and international arrangements must be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Senate. On its legislative side, the Senate touches the House of Representatives. Its consent is necessary to all legislation. And the consent of the Senate is by no means a foregone conclusion. Although numerically insignificant, the political and social prestige of its members renders the Senate fully a match for the House; and a further element of strength consists in its having as popular a basis as the House itself. Thus the political influence of the Senate is important: this branch of Congress acts as a sort of center of gravity for the American system, counteracting, on one hand, the effects of haste, or carelessness, or inexperience in the measures proposed by the House of Representatives, and, on the other, checking any tendency to tyrannical courses in the administration of affairs by the President and his ministers.

Did space permit, it would be interesting, and perhaps profitable, to consider specific points of resemblance and difference between the American Congress and the British Parliament. Some of these have been suggested; others will no doubt occur readily enough to the reader.

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