

FIGURE 3.4 Checks and Balances

The Unwritten Constitution



These are customs and precedents that have been done for so long that people consider them laws but they are not part of the Constitution.

The Cabinet

- Started by George Washington
- Secretaries (heads) of each of the executive departments.
- First Positions - Treasury, State, War.
- Regular meetings held to ask for advice from these people.

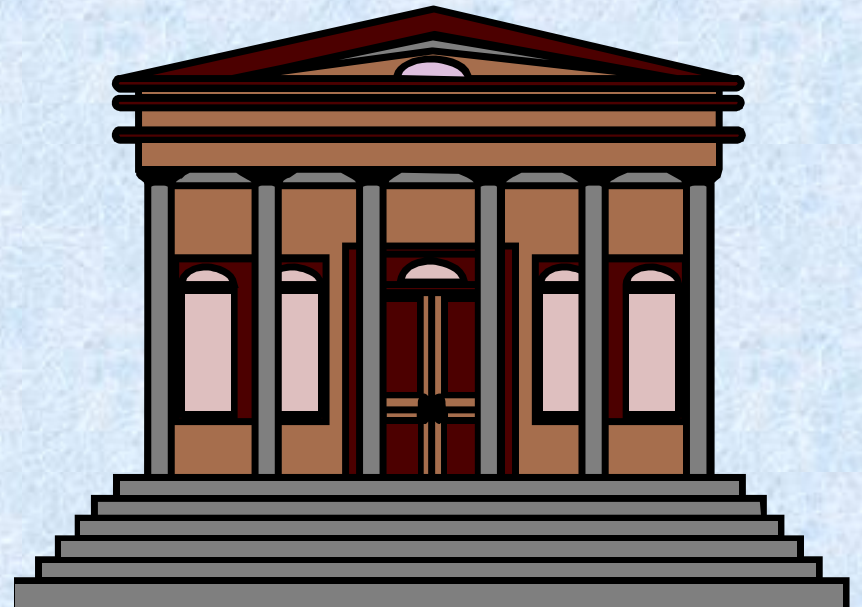


Cabinet Today

- Sec. of State
- Sec. of Labor
- Sec. of the Treasury
- Sec. of Health and Human Services
- Sec. of Defense
- Sec. of Housing and Urban Development
- Attorney General
- Sec. of Transportation
- Sec. of the Interior
- Sec. of Energy
- Sec. of Agriculture
- Sec. of Education
- Sec. of Commerce
- Sec. of Veterans Affairs

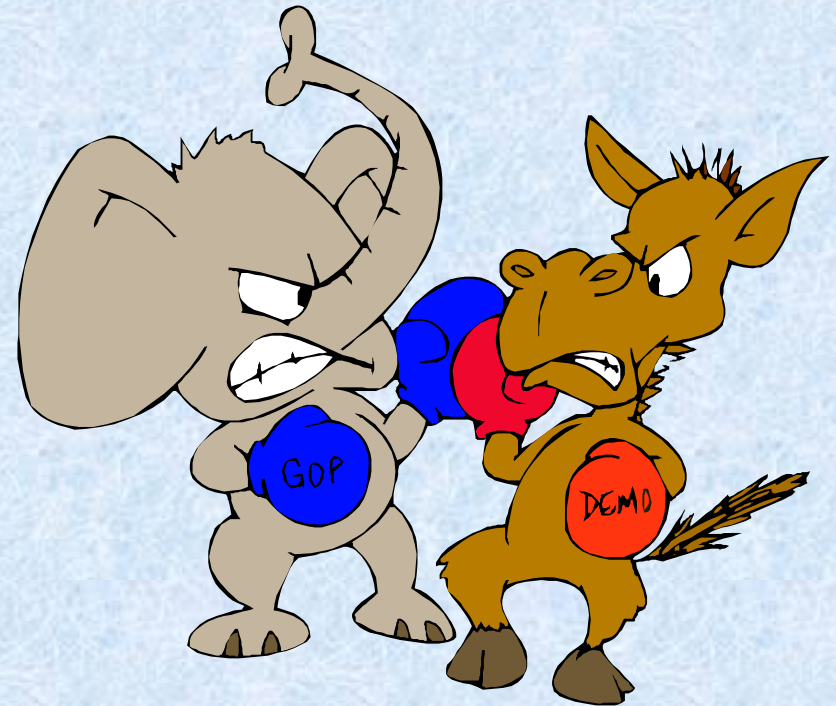
Electoral College

- Originally, voted on its own. No one told the electors how to vote.
- 1824, Popular vote used
- Not in the Constitution requiring the electors to vote will of the majority of the state



Political Parties

- Use political parties to choose candidates for office.
- Nothing in the Constitution concerning parties
- First - Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists



Congressional Committees



- Congress uses a committee system to review and recommend bills that become laws.
- Senators and Representatives belong to several committees and subcommittees.
- Expertise in that area, hopefully
- Power to cut off legislation before coming to full House or Senate

Lobbying

- Interest groups trying to influence the hearts and minds of the Congress
- Economic interest groups – AFL-CIO, Chamber of Commerce, AARP
- Human Rights – NAACP, Children's Defense Fund
- Public Interest – League of Women Voters
- Single Issue – Rifle, Abortion

Judicial Review

- The power of the Supreme Court to declare a law unconstitutional
- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)



Term Limits for President

- George Washington set the precedent – two terms consecutively
- Would give one man too much power and influence.
- Held to this idea until Franklin D. Roosevelt
- After that, became part of the Constitution by the 22nd Amendment