

Station 1



“Why All the Lack of Enthusiasm in the Waiting Room?”

The Constitution says that the government cannot spend money without permission granted by a law passed in Congress. Congressional committees play an important role in shaping the laws that allow spending. The spending bills are called appropriations. The bills in this cartoon seem nervous as they await decisions made about them in the House Appropriation Committee.

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The Constitution gives Congress the power to investigate. Members of Congress investigate issues of public interest including misuse of public money. Congressional committees conduct research to better understand issues and to help them write legislation (laws) that will benefit Americans.

Spring Fads and Fashions April 10, 1924 National Archives Catalog Number: 6011852

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To make decisions, the House and the Senate debate issues and vote. Congressional committees vote on legislation, and if successful, the proposed legislation is voted on by the full House or Senate. Typically, by the time a law is passed, Members of Congress will have had many opportunities to demonstrate their support or opposition. Voting is the engine of democracy.

Vote on Military Bonus Bill March 24, 1922 National Archives Catalog Number: 6011718