Outline Topic VII

The Presidency

I. The President is uniquely powerful
   A. President in the only elected official with a national constituency.

   B. President plays many role (wears many hats) each of which serves to reinforce the other
II. Difference between President, Presidency (Office of the President), and Executive

A. President – One Individual

B. Office of the President – several thousand people who work for President within the White House, Old and New Executive Office Buildings including
   1. National Security Council
   2. Office of Management & Budget

C. Executive Branch – hundreds of thousand of people who work in the cabinet and executive agencies incl:
   1. Dept of Defense inc soldiers, sailors
   2. Other Cabinet Agencies such as Commerce, Agriculture, Homeland Security
   3. Non-Cabinet Agencies such as Fed Communication Commission, National Science Foundation
III. Roles/Hats of the President (as per Clinton Rossiter)

A. Formal Constitutional/Legal Roles

1. Chief of State – symbolic representative of the U.S. and its national sovereignty
2. Chief Executive – sees that the laws are faithfully enforced;
3. Commander in Chief – civilian commander of the armed forces with extraordinary powers in wartime
4. Chief Diplomat – sole power to negotiate treaties, appoint ambassadors, etc.
5. Chief Legislator – develops budget, drafts most legislation, lobbies congress, issues regulations, Issues Executive Orders
B. Informal Roles

1. Leader of Political Party – selects national chairman, controls drafting of platform, raises funds, dispenses patronage

2. Voice of the American People – sets the style and tone of the nation

3. Protector of Peace – declares national emergencies, provides relief, calls out national guard
IV. Sources of Presidential Power

A. Formal Powers
1. Veto/Pocket Veto
2. Appointment and Removal
3. Draft Treaties
4. Executive Agreements
5. Executive Orders
6. War Powers Act
7. Draft Regulations
8. Prepare Budget – Office of Management and Budget-- Economic estimates and forecasts
B. Informal Powers
   1. Focus and Control Public Opinion
   2. Controls Information
      a. OMB
      b. National Security Council –
         national intelligence
   3. Personality
   4. Persuasion
   5. Trappings of Office
V. Despite Formidable Powers, Most Presidents Feel Relatively Powerless – Limited by Congress, Courts, Bureaucracy, and Public

A. Congressional Limits

1. Refuse to pass Pres legislation
   a. Opposition Party Control of Congress
   b. Committees can bottle up legislation

2. Congress controls the purse strings

3. Congress can investigate Executive
   a. Committee Oversight & Investigation
   b. General Accounting Office (GAO)
   c. Request special prosecutor
4. Withhold consent
   a. From nomination
   b. From treaties
   c. Senatorial Courtesy

5. Impeachment
B. Bureaucratic Limits
1. Re-interpret/mis-interpret/ignore orders.
2. Wait-out the President
3. Independent Regulatory Boards
4. Civil Service Protection
5. Iron Triangles of Influence (Policy Sub-Governments)

C. Judicial Limits on Presidential Power
1. Declare Presidential actions-laws-orders unconstitutional
2. Reinterpret Presidential orders-laws
3. Courts Insulated from Presidential Influence
   a. ‘Life’ tenure
   b. Can’t reduce their pay or jurisdiction
   c. Can add new members to court

D. Public Opinion Limits Presidential Power
1. Elections

2. Letter writing

3. Polls

4. But President can also Steer Public Opinion
VI. Is President Too Powerful?

A. President is Powerful but Power is limited

B. Answer Depends on your Assessment of President

VII. How Representative is President?

To what extent do Presidential Elections Provide Mandates and Accountability?