

CONSTITUTION CORNER #5

[Reminder that the teacher/reader will have instructions in red italics -- not to be read aloud. Be sure you have printed and distributed copies of the handout - - “State Land Owned by Federal Government”. (We’ll used it again for Article 4, which you’ll see above that title.) If you have enough time for the speedy “Memory Shout-Outs”, have handy Constitution Corner #4 –at its beginning. This entry takes about 13 minutes to read.]

Welcome once again, great Patriot Women, to your Constitution Corner. We now have established this astonishing fact: ***We are living in a collapsing Country that needs immediate help!*** There is literally only one thing that can rescue us, and that is by returning to the principles of the Constitution that made us great in the first place. If we and our posterity do not know and understand those principles enough to keep them intact, we are doomed. So let’s get to work! *[If time allows review with the class the speedy Memory Shout-Outs that are explained and presented in the beginning of our last Constitution Corner lesson, #4.]*

By now, in our 5th lesson, you are beginning to get a notebook or folder full of educational material that helps in understanding the value, beauty and practicality of our Constitution. Here’s a suggestion: print out these actual lessons that I read to you which we are now studying. By printing out these lessons, you can follow along while I read, and/or just keep the lessons in your notebook or folder for the valuable information that they contain. The lessons are easily found on our WFRW website. Just scroll down to the “We The People” picture.

Today you’ll need your “One Page Outline”, “Congress Has The Power To:”, your new “State Land Owned by Federal Government” and of course your own personal Pocket Constitution, with notebook for notes.

We are right in the middle of the heart of **ARTICLE ONE, Section 8**. This extremely important Section is labeled “POWERS” because these are the only powers that members of Congress are allowed to perform. The powers fall within two subjects: Defense, and General Welfare. We have covered five of the twenty important Congressional Powers, bringing us to paragraph or clause number four. Be sure to label each paragraph with a little circled number in your Constitution copy, so you will know which clause number we are discussing.

Clause 4: **Rules of Naturalization** are Citizenship Rules. How did you and your family do on the Citizenship questions handed out last month? Although it is in the hands of the CONGRESS to establish UNIFORM rules of Naturalization, it is the President’s role to enforce those rules. That’s where Trump’s wall comes in. The rules of Citizenship were being enforced by

him. Are they being enforced now? Note in this clause that Congress also makes nationally uniform rules on **Bankruptcies**.

Clause 5 – Our CONGRESS alone oversees **coining money and regulating its value**, so that it will be uniform throughout the United States. Congress was asleep on the job when President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared that, regarding regulation of value, coins and dollar bills would be backed by only a small percentage of gold or silver, instead of 100%. This not only violated Constitutional Law as stated in Section 10 of Article One, but also, THIS fifth clause, which gives value changing power to Congress, not any President. However, we didn't hear a peep from Congress, who let it slide. Later, Pres. Johnson, and then Pres. Nixon, took our money off gold and silver completely --100%, making our money valuable only in concept. Congress was quiet; our dollar lost its value.

Clause 6 -- Congress has the power to punish **Counterfeiting**.

Clause 7 & 8 -- Congress also has the power to control **Post Offices**. The **Sciences, Arts, and Inventions** need protection and uniformity, for which Congress sets up patents and copyrights to prevent fraud.

Clause 9 -- States that Congress has the power to create and establish, **TRIBUNALS**, or courts that are lower than the established Supreme Court. This is part of the Constitution's checks and balances between the Judicial, Executive, and Congress. In 1891, Congress used this Power to establish the Court of Appeals, which was divided into 13 "Circuit" Courts, with each circuit being a region of the United States, each of which have many "District" judges who must be nominated by the President and then interviewed and confirmed by the Senate. Washington state is in the 9th Circuit Court with eight other western states, the largest of the 13 Circuit Courts in the United States. We'll study this in more detail in the THIRD Article of the Constitution.

Clause 10 – Congress has the power to **define and punish piracy and felonies on the high seas**. Obviously, with these piracies and felonies happening in the middle of the ocean; no one state could take this on. This belongs to a federal jurisdiction.

All the above powers are associated with the General Welfare of our Country. The rest of the exclusive Congressional powers that your taxes can lawfully be used for, is on the subject of **DEFENSE**.

Clause 11 – (#14 Power on our chart) Note that it is CONGRESS only, who can **DECLARE WAR** – not the President! Really???! How many here knew that? Our Congress must officially declare war before a President can take any action. This was very much violated in the Korean War and Vietnam War.

And what do "Letters of Marque and Reprisal" mean? Follow along and add notes to the bottom half of your "Powers" handout. Since America had not yet had time to set up a Navy in our brand-new Country, captains of fishing ships were given an official government letter (or "writ") to allow them to act as a vessel of war, until an adequate navy could be established. The official letters were

called “Marque & Reprisal”. Literally, they mean “seize & destroy”. John Paul Jones was an example of someone who used letters of Marque & Reprisal.

Clauses 12 – 16 – These clauses cover the subjects of **armies and navies** and **military training & expenses** paid by our states’ taxes. (Powers #15, #16, and #17 on our chart.) This was definitely a worthy cause, allowing us to be protected! The Constitution gave states the right to train state militias, and to appoint their own officers, but they could be called forth by Congress to execute the laws of the Union – to *suppress insurrections*, and to *repel invasions*. Officials and candidates in Arizona have threatened to take this on themselves if Congress continues to ignore what Arizonians are calling an invasion of their state by illegal immigrants pouring over their border by the tens of thousands.

Clause 17 – (Power #18 on our chart) sets up strict rules for **Washington DC**. Our tiny seat of government area is to be a non-political district, not a state. Nevertheless, the 23rd Amendment gave this tiny 68 square miles of Federal buildings three illegal electoral votes and one illegal Congress person. (However, they can only vote while in a committee, and for nothing else.) There are many cities in the U.S. who envy this kind of control. Seattle has a much larger area and population than the District of Columbia. Seattle would love to have its own Congress member, and *especially three extra electoral votes*. The 23rd Amendment needs to be overturned so that our National seat of government can be completely non-partisan and non-political.

Tucked into this same clause is Power #19 from our chart: Congress has the power to **Establish Federal lands within States**, but ONLY for federal buildings, such as forts, Arsenals, Stockyards, or Post Offices, etc. In fact, each new state’s legislature must give their consent even for the small area for these few buildings. However, this was ignored when the newer western states came into the United States. As of 2018, the Federal government still owns 61% of Alaska’s land mass, in contrast to .3% of Connecticut’s land mass given up. For Nevada, 80%. Our state of Washington lost more than one fourth of its property to the Federal Government for the privilege of becoming part of the United States. Such an amount of land is not needed for just a few buildings, and this demands to be righted. Check out your handout for today. Notice how much of Oregon’s land was held back. Check out Utah and Idaho. One wonders how Washington State lucked out; the least percentage of land taken out of all the western states.

LAST OF ALL, is Power #20, in **Clause 18**, known as the “ELASTIC CLAUSE”. The notorious words “necessary and proper” have been s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d out by modern leaders to mean..... anything! Read to yourself that first sentence of Clause 18. But note that the **following** sentence says “for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, meaning all the powers stated BEFORE this clause. (NOT any whim that politicians deem necessary to line their pockets with, or gain election votes, etc., etc., etc.)

This finishes out the 20 Powers of Congress in our U.S. Constitution. You have been troopers to follow through and listen to very important and crucial detail today.

In doing the research for this lesson, this author has run across many misunderstood or completely wrong concepts and/or facts on the Powers of Congress, especially in Wikipedia. Writers and politicians will dupe us into misinformation to suit their needs. So, beware! Hopefully these discussions will alleviate those deceivers' very wrong assumptions!

Here are five facts to contemplate, even though we have just gone over at least twenty!! Please add more to this list in your notebook, and don't forget to teach and pass on your knowledge, because that's what makes it stick!

FIVE FACTS FROM Constitution Corner #5

1. Congress sets the rules for Naturalization and Citizenship; the President's job is to enforce those rules.
2. Our US dollar is supposed to represent gold or silver held for safe keeping by our government. But now the dollar no longer has any backing of silver or gold.
3. Only Congress can declare war. Not until then can the President act.
4. Washington DC was set up to be completely void of politics, making it neutral, and safe from bickering policies.
5. Congress held back huge amounts of illegally grabbed land from the Western States as each new state joined the USA.