Lesson 4 Helping Constituents

A. Main Idea
   1. Advocacy
   2. Casework
   3. caseworkers, constituents’
   4. reelected, executive branch

B. Main Idea
   1. Public works
   2. pork-barrel legislation
   3. logrolling
   4. grants, contracts

Summary and Reflection

Casework, pork-barrel legislation, logrolling, and the assignment of federal grants and contracts to a Congress member’s state or district all benefit the voters and improve the legislator’s chances of reelection. Casework is the most personal of the three, benefiting individual voters and making the lawmaker known at the local level. Pork-barrel legislation and logrolling bring federal money and jobs to local districts or states, improving the lives of entire communities of voters. The assignment of federal grants and contracts can benefit small local companies and communities or large businesses and entire states. In all cases, the happier the constituents are, the more likely they are to reelect the lawmaker.