**Conflicting Responsibilities of a Congressman**

**Directions:** Read We The People #29 on Congressman Jones and answer the following questions.

1a. What effect will the tariff on imported shoes have on the shoe factories and workers in Congressman Jones’ district? Explain.

b. How might this affect other businesses in the area where the factory workers live? Explain.

c. How will these influence Congressman Jones’ popularity among his constituents? Explain.

2a. What effect will the tariff have the price of shoes?

b. How might this affect poor people who do not work in the shoe industry? Explain.

3a. What might nations who export shoes to the United States do in response to the tariff on their shoes?

b. What impact might this have on other industries in the United States? Explain.

4a. Should all people be forced to pay more for shoes so the factories in Congressman Jones’ district can stay in business? Explain.

b. Should other industries in the United States have to pay more to export their goods so the factories in Congressman Jones’ district can stay in business? Explain.

If you were Congressman Jones, what would you do concerning the tariff on imported shoes? **Explain**. Be thorough!!!

**What is Popular vs. What is Right**

The following questions relate to what **YOU** feel the role of the representative should be. Feel free to discuss with neighbors, but you should answer the questions according to your own beliefs.

1. What happens when the needs of the constituents conflict with what the representative believes is right?

2. What happens when the needs of the constituents conflict with the general welfare of the United States?

3. What happens to a representative whose voting record goes against the opinions of most of his/her constituents?

4. In your opinion, is the role of the representative to vote the way his/her constituents want, right or wrong, or is the role to vote for what they feel is in the best interest of the country, should those two things conflict? Explain!

**Practical Politics**

Directions: Read the following scenarios and answer the questions.

1a. One of the first bills up for a vote in this congress decriminalizes marijuana. You know a vast majority of your constituents oppose the bill. Personally, you believe the current laws are useless. They cost a lot of money to enforce and do little to reduce marijuana use. You believe that marijuana should be decriminalized and law enforcement should concentrate on more important crime problems. Do you vote against your constituents? What do you do? WHY?

b. Would you vote be the same if it involved heroine or methamphetamine? Explain why or why not.

2. The voters in your district would like to spend money developing a park in your area. You have introduced a bill that would do that. However, to get your bill passed, you will have to make deals with other legislators. One key legislator is Representative Hamilton. He tells you he will make sure your bill is passed if you vote for his bill. His bill makes a drastic cut in welfare payments. About 1 person in 5 in your district receives some sort of welfare payment. Nearly 60% of the people in your district favor the park. Would you accept the deal in order to get the park? What would you do? Why?