LESSON PLAN 2

Expansion and Use of Presidential Powers

By
Dr. Samantha Averett
Rationale:
The United States Constitution was created over two hundred years ago. It is a living document, which means it changes with citizens' and government officials' use, understanding, and interpretation. In this lesson, students will examine the role and responsibility the President of the United States has as a member and leader in a global community. Students will also justify and analyze the expansion of presidential powers over time.

Standard(s):
C3 NCSS
1. DS Civ 3 9-12: Analyze the impact of constitutions, laws, treaties, and international agreements on the maintenance of national and international order.
2. DS Civ 4 9-12 Explain how the U.S. Constitution establishes a system of government that has powers, responsibilities, and limits that have changed over time and are still contested.

Objectives:
1. Examine the role and responsibility of the President of the United States globally
2. Analyze the expansion of presidential powers during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson
3. Determine the motivation for expanding the presidential powers
4. Demonstrate knowledge and practical application of historical skills (analysis and corroboration).

Activity:
1. Students will analyze the documents.
2. Students will group and corroborate the sources.
3. Students will respond to examination prompts.

Guiding Questions:
1. To what extent does the President influence international agreements or relationships and domestic opinion?
2. To what extent did Wilson extend the role and power of the presidency with actions related to the fourteen point plan, League of Nations, and Paris Peace Conference?

Sources:
1. United States Constitution
   a. Excerpts from Article 1
   b. Excerpts from Article 2
2. Governmental Speeches
   a. President Wilson’s 14 point plan
   b. President Wilson’s speech after the Paris Peace Conference
   c. Henry Cabot Lodge Speech
3. Newspaper Article
   a. The Sun Advocate Price Utah, October 22, 1920
   b. Chicago Tribune September 3, 1919

**Suggested Lesson Plan:**

1. **Warm Up** –
   a. Lead a whole group discussion on the branches of government
      i. History of the U.S. Constitution
      ii. The three branches of government
      iii. Checks and Balances between the branches

2. **Examine** –
   a. Students will work to examine Article two of the U.S. Constitution to determine the role of the President as it relates to international and global interactions.
   b. Then students will examine Article one of the U.S. Constitution to determine how the Legislative Branch supports or rejects the Executive Branch's actions.

3. **Justify** –
   a. Students will read the speeches given by the President and justify the action taken by the President based on the Articles from the U.S. Constitution.
   b. Students will read the articles from the newspaper to determine the support or lack of support for the League of Nations.
   c. Students will justify the President's speech to determine the part of the speech that may be used to persuade the politicians represented in the newspaper articles.

4. **Evaluate** –
   a. Students answer the guided questions.

**Suggested Grade Level:**
This lesson is suggested for middle to high school age children.

**Suggested Lesson Pace:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule Type</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80 minute Block Schedule</td>
<td>This lesson structure may take one and a half class periods. This will allow discovery for the first entire class period and then evaluation in the next class period. This will allow for reflection and analysis of the previous class's information to draw a conclusion based on evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 minute Block Schedule</td>
<td>This lesson structure may take three class periods. This will allow discovery during the first class period and re-examining in the</td>
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</tbody>
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second class period. Finally, the students can use the third class period to reflect and analyze the information from the last two classes to draw a conclusion based on evidence.
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Document A

Article II

Section 1

The Executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector……………………..

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected……………………

Section 2

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session…………………………..
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Source: United States Constitution
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Document B

Article I

Section 1

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen…………………..

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote…………

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided……………………

Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;……………………
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To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;…………………

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof…………………

Section 10

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Control of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Source: United States Constitution

Document C

It will be our wish and purpose that the processes of peace, when they are begun, shall be absolutely open and that they shall involve and permit henceforth no secret understandings of
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any kind. The day of conquest and aggrandizement is gone by; so is also the day of secret covenants entered into in the interest of particular governments and likely at some unlooked-for moment to upset the peace of the world. It is this happy fact, now clear to the view of every public man whose thoughts do not still linger in an age that is dead and gone, which makes it possible for every nation whose purposes are consistent with justice and the peace of the world to avow now or at any other time the objects it has in view.

We entered this war because violations of right had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible unless they were corrected and the world secure once for all against their recurrence. What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world as against force and selfish aggression. All the peoples of the world are in effect partners in this interest, and for our own part we see very clearly that unless justice be done to others it will not be done to us. The programme of the world's peace, therefore, is our programme; and that programme, the only possible programme, as we see it, is this:

I. Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.

II. Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.

III. The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.

IV. Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.

V. A free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.

VI. The evacuation of all Russian territory and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing; and, more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire. The treatment accorded Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be the acid test of their good will, of their comprehension of her needs as distinguished from their own interests, and of their intelligent and unselfish sympathy.

VII. Belgium, the whole world will agree, must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations. No other single
act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the laws which they have themselves set and determined for the government of their relations with one another. Without this healing act the whole structure and validity of international law is forever impaired.

VIII. All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.

IX. A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.

X. The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development.

XI. Rumania, Serbia, and Montenegro should be evacuated; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea; and the relations of the several Balkan states to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality; and international guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan states should be entered into.

XII. The Turkish portion of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees.

XIII. An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.

XIV. A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

In regard to these essential rectifications of wrong and assertions of right we feel ourselves to be intimate partners of all the governments and peoples associated together against the Imperialists. We cannot be separated in interest or divided in purpose. We stand together until the end.

For such arrangements and covenants we are willing to fight and to continue to fight until they are achieved; but only because we wish the right to prevail and desire a just and stable peace such as can be secured only by removing the chief provocations to war, which this programme does remove. We have no jealousy of German greatness, and there is nothing in this programme that impairs it. We grudge her no achievement or distinction of learning or of pacific enterprise such as have made her record very bright and very enviable. We do not wish to injure her or to block in any way her legitimate influence or power. We do not wish to fight her either with arms or with hostile arrangements of trade if she is willing to associate herself with us and the other peace-loving nations of the world in covenants of justice and law and fair dealing. We wish her
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only to accept a place of equality among the peoples of the world, -- the new world in which we now live, -- instead of a place of mastery.

Source: President Wilson's Message to Congress, January 8, 1918; Records of the United States Senate; Record Group 46; Records of the United States Senate; National Archives.
Mr. Chairman and fellow countrymen, it is with a great deal of genuine pleasure that I find myself in Pueblo, and I feel it a compliment that I should be permitted to be the first speaker in this beautiful hall…………………………

The chief pleasure of my trip has been that it has nothing to do with my personal fortunes, that it has nothing to do with my personal reputation, that it has nothing to do with anything except the great principles uttered by Americans of all sorts and of all parties which we are now trying to realize at this crisis of the affairs of the world. But there have been unpleasant impressions as well as pleasant impressions, my fellow citizens, as I have crossed the continent. I have perceived more and more that men have been busy creating an absolutely false impression of what the treaty of peace and the covenant of the league of nations contain and mean. I find, more-over, that there is an organized propaganda against the league of nations and against the treaty proceeding from exactly the same sources that the organized propaganda proceeded from which threatened this country here and there with disloyalty. And I want to say—I cannot say it too often—any man who carries a hyphen about with him carries a dagger that he is ready to plunge into the vitals of this Republic whenever he gets ready. If I can catch any man with a hyphen in this great contest, I will know that I have caught an enemy of the Republic.

My fellow citizens, it is only certain bodies of foreign sympathies, certain bodies of sympathy with foreign nations that are organized against this great document which the American representatives have brought back from Paris. Therefore, in order to clear away the mists, in order to remove the impressions, in order to check the falsehoods that have clustered around this great subject, I want to tell you a few very simple things about the treaty and the covenant.

Do not think of this treaty of peace as merely a settlement with Germany. It is that. It is a very severe settlement with Germany, but there is not anything in it that she did not earn. Indeed, she earned more than she can ever be able to pay for, and the punishment exacted of her is not a punishment greater than she can bear, and it is absolutely necessary in order that no other nation may ever plot such a thing against humanity and civilization. But the treaty is so much more than that. It is not merely a settlement with Germany; it is a readjustment of those great injustices which underlie the whole structure of European and Asiatic society…………………………

It is a people’s treaty, that accomplishes by a great sweep of practical justice the liberation of men who never could have liberated themselves, and the power of the most powerful nations has been devoted not to their aggrandizement but to the liberation of people whom they could have put under their control if they had chosen to do so. Not one foot of territory is demanded by the conquerors, not one single item of submission to their authority is demanded by them. The men who sat around that table in Paris knew that the time had come when the people were no longer going to consent to live under masters but were going to live the lives that they chose themselves, to live under such governments as they chose to erect. That is the fundamental principle of this great settlement…………………………

We must see that all the questions which have disturbed the world, all the questions which have eaten into the confidence of men toward their governments, all the questions which have disturbed the processes of industry, shall be brought out where men of all points of view, men of
all attitudes of mind, men of all kinds of experience, may contribute their part to the settlement of the great questions which we must settle and cannot ignore. At the front of this great treaty is put the covenant of the league of nations………………………………………………

Unless you get the united, concerted purpose and power of the great Governments of the world behind this settlement, it will fall down like a house of cards. There is only one power to put behind the liberation of mankind, and that is the power of mankind. It is the power of the united moral forces of the world, and in the covenant of the league of nations, the moral forces of the world are mobilized. For what purpose? Reflect, my fellow citizens, that the membership of this great league is going to include all the great fighting nations of the world, as well as the weak ones. It is not for the present going to include Germany, but for the time being Germany is not a great fighting country. All the nations that have power that can be mobilized are going to be members of this League, including the United States. And what do they unite for? They enter into a solemn promise to one another that they will never use their power against one another for aggression; that they never will impair the territorial integrity of a neighbor; that they never will interfere with the political independence of a neighbor; that they will abide by the principle that great populations are entitled to determine their own destiny and that they will not interfere with that destiny; and that no matter what differences arise amongst them they will never resort to war without first having done one or other of two things—either submitted the matter of controversy to arbitration, in which case they agree to abide by the result without question, or submitted it to the consideration of the council of the league of nations, laying before that council all the documents, all the facts, agreeing that the council can publish the documents and the facts to the whole world…………..

my fellow citizens, war will be in the far background, war will be pushed out of that foreground of terror in which it has kept the world for generation after generation, and men will know that there will be a calm time of deliberate counsel. The most dangerous thing for a bad cause is to expose it to the opinion of the world. The most certain way that you can prove that a man is mistaken is by letting all his neighbors know what he thinks, by letting all his neighbors discuss what he thinks, and if he is in the wrong, you will notice that he will stay at home, he will not walk on the street. He will be afraid of the eyes of his neighbors. He will be afraid of their judgment of his character. He will know that his cause is lost unless he can sustain it by the arguments of right and of justice. The same law that applies to individuals applies to nations.

“The one effective move for obtaining peace is by an agreement among all the great powers in which each should pledge itself not only to abide by the decisions of a common tribunal but to back its decisions by force. The great civilized nations should combine by solemn agreement in a great world league for the peace of righteousness; a court should be established. A changed and amplified Hague court would meet the requirements, composed of representatives from each nation, whose representatives are sworn to act as judges in each case and not in a representative capacity.” Now, there is article 10. He goes on and says this: “The nations should agree on certain rights that should not be questioned, such as territorial integrity, their right to deal with their domestic affairs, and with such matters as whom they should admit to citizenship. All such guarantee each of their number in possession of these rights.”………………………………..
The arrangements of justice do not stand of themselves, my fellow citizens. The arrangements of this treaty are just, but they need the support of the combined power of the great nations of the world. And they will have that support. Now that the mists of this great question have cleared away, I believe that men will see the truth, eye to eye and face to face. There is one thing that the American people always rise to and extend their hand to, and that is the truth of justice and of liberty and of peace. We have accepted that truth and we are going to be led by it, and it is going to lead us, and, through us the world, out into pastures of quietness and peace such as the world never dreamed of before.

Source: Woodrow Wilson speech in Pueblo Colorado, September 25, 1919, after the Paris Peace Conference
I am as anxious as any human being can be to have the United States render every possible 
service to the civilization and the peace of mankind. But I am certain that we can do it best by
not putting ourselves in leading strings, or subjecting our policies and our sovereignty to other
nations. The independence of the United States is not only more precious to ourselves, but to the
world, than any single possession. Look at the United States today. We have made mistakes in
the past; we have had shortcomings.

We shall make mistakes in the future and fall short of our own best hopes. But nonetheless, is
there any country today on the face of the earth which can compare with this in ordered liberty,
in peace, and in the largest freedom? I feel that I can say this without being accused of undue
boastfulness, for it is a simple fact. And in taking on these obligations, all that we do is in the
spirit of unselfishness, and it is a desire for the good of mankind. But it is well to remember that
we are dealing with nations, every one of which has a direct individual interest to serve, and
there is grave danger in an unshared idealism.

Contrast the United States with any country on the face of the earth today and ask yourself
whether the situation of the United States is not the best to be found. I will go as far as anyone in
world service that the first step to world service is the maintenance of the United States. You
can call me selfish if you will, conservative or reactionary, or use any other harsh adjective you
see fit to apply. But an American I was born, an American I've remained all my life. I can never
be anything else but an American, and I must think of the United States first. And when I think
of the United States first in an arrangement like this, I am thinking of what is best for the world.
For if the United States fails, the best hopes of mankind fail with it.

I have never had but one allegiance; I cannot divide it now. I have loved but one flag and I
cannot share that devotion and give affection to the mongrel banner invented for a league.
Internationalism, illustrated by the Bolshevik and by the men to whom all countries are alike,
provided they can make money out of them, is to me repulsive. National I must remain and in
that way I, like all other Americans, can render the amplest service to the world. The United
States is the world's best hope, but if you fetter her in the interest through quarrels of other
nations, if you tangle her in the intrigues of Europe, you will destroy her powerful good, and
endanger her very existence. Leave her to march freely through the centuries to come, as in the
years that have gone. Strong, generous, and confident, she has nobly served mankind. Beware
how you trifle with your marvelous inheritance — this great land of ordered liberty. For if we
stumble and fall, freedom and civilization everywhere will go down in ruin.

Source: Henry Cabot Lodge, congressional member from Massachusetts, speech on the League
of Nation, in 1919

Audio of speech: https://iowaculture.gov/history/education/educator-resources/primary-source-
sets/world-war-i-evaluating-americas-role-global/henry-cabot

Lodge, Henry Cabot, .Spk, Nation'S Forum Collection, and A.F.R. Lawrence Collection. League
of Nations. [Bridgeport, Conn.: Made by the Columbia Graphophone Manufacturing Company,
JOHNSON DECLARES HARDING FLATLY OPPOSED TO LEAGUE

MILWAUKEE, Wis, October 16, 1920

The election of Senator Harding as president of the United States was urged here last night by Senator Hiram W. Johnson of California in the second of his speeches under the auspices of the republican national committee. Senator Johnson said in part: “Just now the overshadowing pall on the republic which we love is the Wilson League of Nations. It is the greatest issue in the United States since the civil war. The line of demarcation in the present campaign is clear – the democrats are on one side and the republicans are on the other. There is no ambiguity in the stand of the republican party or in the stand of Senator Harding on the League of Nations. For reasons of their own, certain interested individuals and newspapers may misrepresent and misinterpret his words, I resent those imputations upon the sincerity of the utterances of the candidate and the manifest endeavor in some quarters to distort his plan language.”

“In some instances, the comment has been mere rank misrepresentation. In other disingenuous interpretation. I do not object to some men in this campaign saving their faces so long as they do not save their league, but I will not permit to go unchallenged from other sources the falsification of the position of the republican party and also Senator Harding’s stand. There is nothing ambiguous or at all uncertain in our candidate’s declaration. He had courageously taken his stand. He has put the league behind him. He wants neither interpretation nor reservation, but rejection. “From those who believe as I do, he is entitled not only to the warmest commendation, but the strongest advocacy and the most enthusiastic support. And so far, as lied in my power I am here tonight to give him that advocacy and support. “The issue today is the League of Nations as present by President Wilson, which Cox says he’ll take this country into and which say he won’t.”

Source: The Sun Advocate, Price, Utah, October 22, 1920
MAYOR’S H.C.L APPEAL ATTACKS NATIONS’ LEAGUE

In an appeal to congress to cut down living costs yesterday Mayor Thompson attacked the league of nations as a fanciful contrivance, the adoption of which would submerge the identity of the United States.

The mayor’s appeal, which was mailed last night to all representatives elected from Chicago and Illinois senators, call on congress to reduce taxation, reject the league of nations, provide imprisonment at hard labor for price fixers, place a limited embargo upon exports of foodstuffs and asks that congress go on the record without delay against compulsory military training.

Source: Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois, September 3, 1919
Instruction: Use the table below and the articles from the United States Constitution to determine the rights and responsibilities of the Executive Branch and then identify the way the Legislative Branch either check or balance the right or responsibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presidential Rights and Responsibilities</th>
<th>Check and Balance of the Legislation Branch</th>
<th>Is this support or rejection?</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1.</td>
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