

When Thomas Jefferson asked George Washington why the Senate was included in the Constitutional Convention, Washington answered with a parable comparing the Senate to pouring hot tea unto a saucer to cool it so it could be swallowed. He continued by explaining that having only two Senators from each state, regardless of size, and being elected for a longer six year term, the Senate could temper and modify hot debates so they would be more apt to be accepted.

As we know, the total number of members elected to the House of Representatives is based on the population of each respective state, and constituencies are divided into districts, so a smaller number of people are represented by each member. Now remember, there are only two Senators to represent each state, regardless of size and population.

The founders designed the two houses of Congress to have different perspectives and temperaments. The House, by representing smaller constituencies and being constantly up for re-election, would represent the hot passions and the popular will of the people. This is a vital component for a representative type government.

However, more debate is required in the making of sound decisions. Our Founders knew this and, as Benjamin Franklin said: *“Passion governs and she never governs wisely.”* The Senate, with longer terms and generally larger constituencies was conceived to temper passions with reason which demands considerable detailed deliberation.

Central to ensuring this Senatorial deliberation is an unencumbered freedom to debate. This is accorded to the Senate. The House frequently rations time parsimoniously, often to a single hour of debate, even on major legislation.

I’ve been told by a member of Congress that a popular aphorism in the House of Representatives is: *“The other party is the opposition; the Senate is the enemy.”* Frustrating House members, perhaps, has become one of the Senate’s missions. If the Senate is a pain to the House, perhaps that was our founding Father’s CONSTITUTIONAL LOGIC!

**Do ya think???** Perhaps!!! What are your thoughts???