Political Dictionary

Speaker of the House: the person who presides over the House of 
Representatives; the most powerful person in the House. 

Critical Thinking Skills

24. **Face the Issues** Federal spending usually increases 
before elections. Why is this so? Why do you think this is so? 

25. **Bringing Inferences** Why is the President's throne 
important? What is the main point of the President's throne? 

26. **Expressing Problems Clearly** Why do you think the 
reporting process in both houses of Congress should or 
should not be simplified? 

27. **Identifying Assumptions** The Congressional Record 
reports the way in which each member of the House and 
Senate votes on roll-call votes. What might a member not 
vote on certain roll-call votes? 

Analyzing Political Cartoon

28. (a) If the flowers and gift represent new legislation, what 
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Participation Activities

30. **Current Events Watch** Scan recent news reports for 
events that illustrate principles of the Constitution. 

31. **Graphing Activity** Create a bar graph showing the 
percentage of bills introduced that actually become laws during 
the first session of Congress. Then create a second graph 
showing the same information for the second session of 
Congress. What differences do you notice in the percentages?