

Chapter 10: Congress

Opener

Lecture Notes

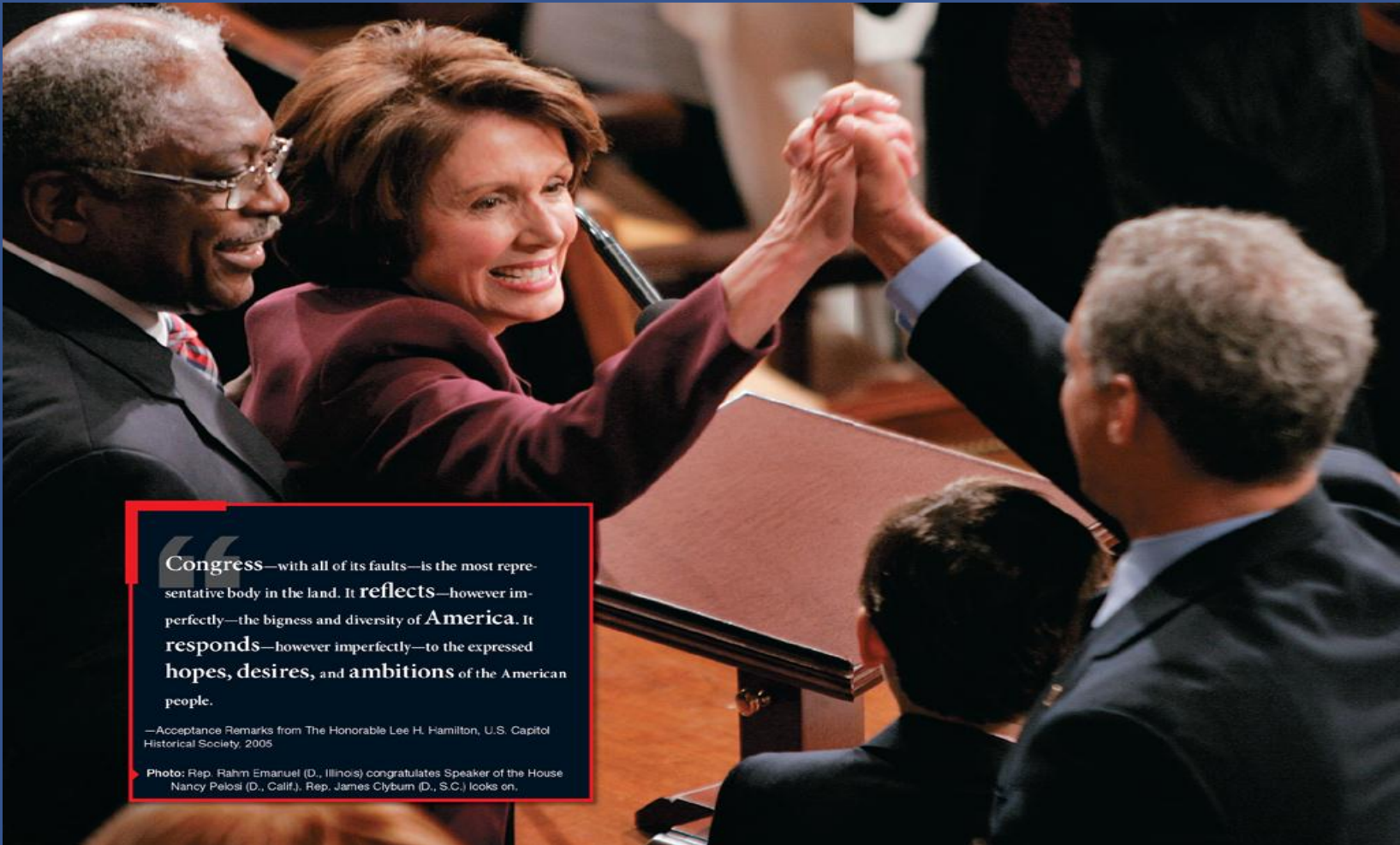


AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT

PEARSON

Congress – with all of its faults – is the most representative body in the land. It reflects – however imperfectly – the bigness and diversity of America. It responds – however imperfectly – to the expressed hopes, desires, and ambitions of the American people.

-Acceptance Remarks from The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton, U.S. Capitol Historical Society, 2005



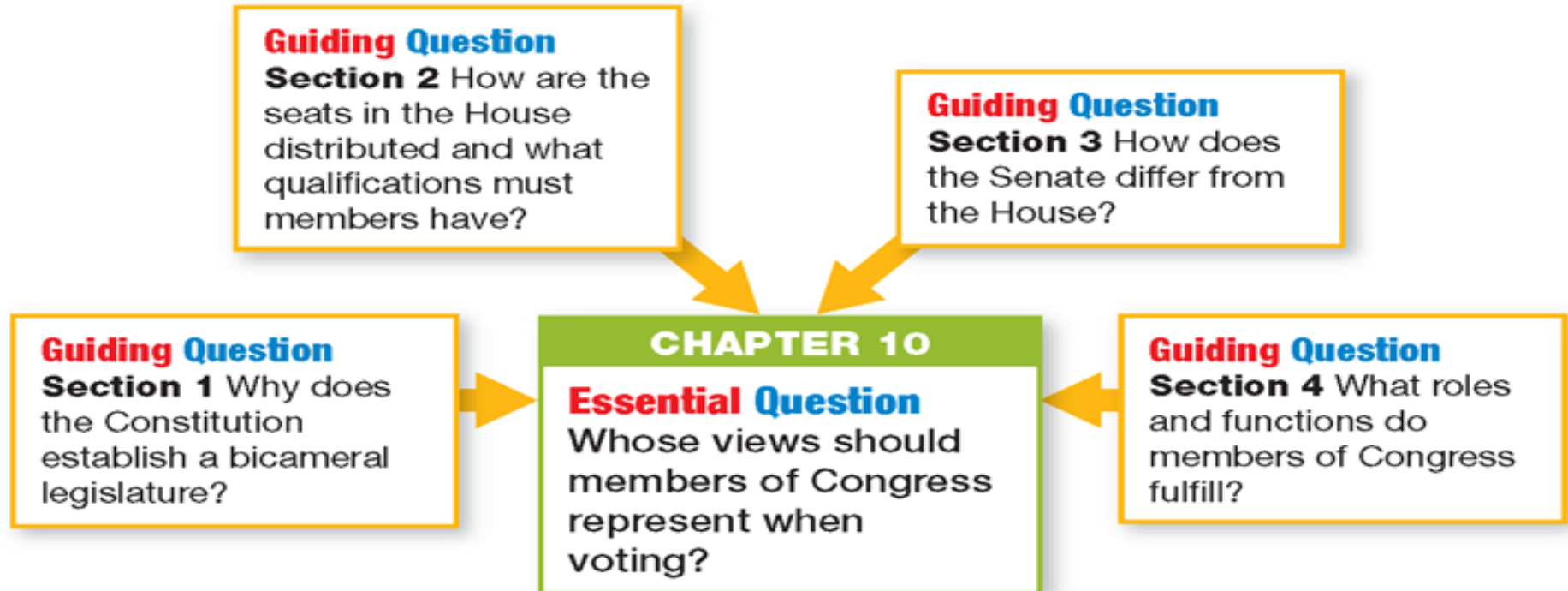
“Congress—with all of its faults—is the most representative body in the land. It reflects—however imperfectly—the bigness and diversity of America. It responds—however imperfectly—to the expressed hopes, desires, and ambitions of the American people.”

—Acceptance Remarks from The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton, U.S. Capitol Historical Society, 2005

Photo: Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D., Illinois) congratulates Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.). Rep. James Clyburn (D., S.C.) looks on.

► Essential Question

- Whose views should members of Congress represent when voting?



▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 1: The Nation Legislature
 - Why does the Constitution establish a bicameral legislature?
 - The bicameral legislature was based on the model of Parliament, was a key condition of the Great Compromise, and allows each house of Congress to act as a check on the other.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 2: The House of Representatives
 - How are the seats in the House distributed and what qualifications must members meet?
 - The 435 seats are apportioned according to the population of each state, with representatives meeting age, citizenship, and residency requirements.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 3: The Senate
 - How does the Senate differ from the House?
 - The Senate has 100 members, two for each state, who serve longer terms and are seen as being less subject to public pressure and more concerned about national issues.

▶ Guiding Questions

- Section 4: The Members of Congress
 - What roles and functions do members of Congress perform?
 - Members of Congress act as legislators, representatives, and servants of their constituents, committee members, and politicians.