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The two houses of Congress are much alike in their concern with local and special-interest legislation, their intricate legislative and parliamentary procedure, their tendency toward voting by blocks and interest groups in defiance of party ties. Yet the upper chamber has a character all its own.

Senators are a somewhat different breed of political animal from the average representative. Most of the members of the upper house represent larger and more populous areas than do representatives. They have much more political elbow room. A representative, elected by a smaller constituency both geographically and numerically (in most cases), may feel somewhat cramped by the necessity of devoting himself to the needs of a few interest groups and a handful of local party bosses. A senator, on the other hand, can often find more chance to maneuver in representing a broader and more varied constituency. He is less exposed to the consequences of minute shifts in opinion among smaller groups.

Senators tend also to have important places in their state political parties. Sometimes they virtually dominate those parties. Their party position often rests partially on their control of federal patronage dispensed to the state, and their patronage power largely rests in turn on the constitutional provision requiring Senate confirmation of major presidential appointments.

This power of the Senate to confirm nominations is important constitutionally as a part of our checks and balances system.



Please translate everything below:

1. Registration of Food Facilities Interim Final Rule: The interim final rule requires the owner, operator, or agent in charge of a domestic or foreign facility that manufactures, processes, packs or holds “food” (as defined in the rule) for human or animal consumption in the U.S. to register with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) no later than December 12, 2003. In the rule, “facility” is defined as “any establishment, structure, or structures under one ownership at one general physical location, or, in the case of a mobile facility, traveling to multiple locations, that manufactures/processes, packs, or holds food for consumption in the United States,” whether the food is produced domestically or abroad. Private residences of individuals are not facilities. FDA also is clarifying in the rule that a facility is not limited to one building, but can consist of several contiguous structures. The Bioterrorism Act exempts farms, restaurants, other retail food establishments, nonprofit food establishments in which food is prepared for or served directly to the consumer, and fishing vessels (with some exceptions) from the requirement to register. Foreign facilities that manufacture/process food are also exempt if food from those facilities undergoes further processing or packaging of a more than de minimis nature at another foreign facility.

2. The Bioterrorism Act requires a foreign facility to provide the name of its U.S. agent. The U.S. agent acts as a communication link between FDA and the foreign facility. The U.S. agent will be the person FDA contacts if an emergency occurs, unless the facility has identified a different emergency contact. The interim final rule specifically requests additional comments on the costs of maintaining a U.S. agent.



Please translate everything below:

Most of today's weather modification is unintentional. For example, the cloud-forming vapor trails of jets, the clearing of forests for crops and pasture, and the irrigation of desert and wasteland regions all affect the climate in various ways. Nuclear explosions are also thought by some scientists to have an effect, while others claim that substantial proof is still lacking. What has been ascertained is that the blasts have built up around the Earth a new belt of radioactivity, by injecting electrons into the encircling magnetic fields.

One of the most massive and easily gauged problems of unintentional weather modification is air pollution. Factories and power plants, home furnaces, automobiles, and other fuel-burners clog the air with 6 million tons of carbon dioxide and other waste material a year.

These wastes, which readily absorb thermal or infrared radiation, trap heat, keeping the world's climate warmer than it would otherwise be. Because of this trapping process, our atmosphere has between 10 and 15 percent more carbon dioxide than it had a century ago.

Unintended weather modification is still relatively limited, but the ongoing population explosion and the probably bigger land projects of the future could conceivably tip the atmospheric scales, creating wholly new and unpredictable weather patterns.