- Types/Ways they work
  - Traditional Bargaining - The conference committee will meet and talk about differences.
  - Offer-counteroffer - "Here's our offer but we're willing to change" then the other discusses what they agree with and what they'd change
  - Sub-conference - Split up to spend less time in conference. One part will talk about the tax part of a bill or the appropriation part of the bill.
  - Pro forma - Becoming increasingly popular. There is not conference committee, or it meets briefly to discuss what they'll change.
- They can line item veto. Has a lot of power right before a bill comes into law.

3. The Assignment Process
- Budget committee - Established in 1974, deals with the budget.
- Least popular - Ethics committees,
- Foreign relations committee - Big in the Senate. Started in 1970s because of Vietnam War, continued with the Cold War. After that very few people wanted to be on it. It then regained popularity after 9/11.
- Motivations for at Legislative level (Fenno Outlined this)
  - Re-election
    - They'll be on a committee that their constituency wants.
  - Policy
    - Focus on issues nationwide.
  - Influence in Washington
    - Influence in the House - Chair committee, etc.
    - Influence in the Senate - A lot more opportunities for power.
- Commerce committee
- Desirability of committees
- Petitioning for an assignment - Sit down with the steering committees themselves. Talk to party leaders so they'll recommend them be on a committee. Party leaders can seek out people to be on a committee.
- Shirley Chisolm - First black woman elected to the house. From Brooklyn. Was on agriculture, but was angry and petitioned and got moved to veteran affairs.
- Steering Committees (In the house some people were grandfathered out of these rules)
  - Have formal rules