

Letter: Senate must concur on treaties

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In the March 15 Kingman Daily Miner, News Editor Alan Choate stated on the Opinion page that "the 47 Republican senators who sent that letter to the Islamic Republic of Iran" stating that "you may not fully understand our constitutional system" and that "Congress plays a significant role" in this process, [made themselves] "look like political amateurs who don't understand the offices [they] hold." This is because "a legal scholar pointed out" that this "isn't accurate" and that "the Iranians know this."

Hmmm. I wonder then, as I am looking right now at the exact wording of Article II, Section 2 of our written Constitution of the United States of America (in a little booklet published by the Cato Institute), what these words mean: "The President ... shall have the Power, by and with the Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur ..."

Another seemingly obscure portion of this written Constitution that I must have missed is Article II, Section 1, which states: "Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he [the President] shall take the following Oath or Affirmation: 'I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'"

Article VI states: "This Constitution, and the laws of the United States ... and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every state shall be bound thereby ... the Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and all executive and judicial officers ... shall be bound by the Oath of Affirmation, to support this Constitution ..."

Oh, wait. I guess that I am not erudite enough to understand the meaning of those words [even though I would think that even a third- or fourth-grader could understand what those words mean, if properly taught]. And then again, I guess the actual wording of the Constitution doesn't matter anymore in this enlightened age.

If "the Iranians know this" already, why have we forgotten this?

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