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**Presidency II: organization, vice-presidency, accountability, greatness**

**Vocabulary:**

Line and Staff Organization – Orders flow down an administrative line, typical of every bureaucratic entity.

Executive Office of the President – The cluster of presidential staff agencies that help the president carry out his responsibilities. Currently the office includes the Office of Management and Budget, the Council of Economic Advisers, and several other units.

Office of Management and Budget – Presidential staff agency that serves as a clearinghouse for budgetary requests and management improvements.

Cabinet – Advisory council for a president, consisting of the heads of the executive departments, the vice-president, and a few others the president considers cabinet-level officials.

Accountability – A president’s responsiveness to the will of the majority and taking responsibility for one’s actions.

**Abstracts:**

* Orders flow down this administrative line from president, to cabinet members, to bureau chiefs, to smaller offices.
* Serves as the president and casts the tie-breaking vote in the Senate. The vice-president is used as “back-up equipment” and is affected by 2 amendments.
* The 22nd amendment puts a 2 term limit for the president which gives a better chance for vice-presidents to move up to being president and more time in the White House.
* The 25th amendment states that the vice-president becomes the president in the event of a death of a president. It outlines the powers, duties, and establishes procedures on filling in the vacancy of the president, such as there must be a confirmation by a majority vote of both houses of Congress.
* Held accountable through reelection and legacy, Congress, the Supreme Court, the media, and public opinion.
* The public wants a president that can live up to the shared ideals of liberty and recognize the needs of Americans.
* The president is judged on basis of if desirable change was brought and if he acted wisely when guiding the nation through rough times.
* There is a paradox when being the president. The “public wants to see themselves in him, but they must also be confident he is something bigger then themselves.”

**Necessities:**

* The line and staff organization of the presidency allows presidents to rely on their subordinates. Such as their personal staffs for loyalty and single-mindedness. The staff can be categorized by their primary functions from domestic and economic policy, national security or foreign policy, administration and personnel matters, and congressional and public relations. The institutionalized executive office is to help presidents carry out responsibilities and the enlarged role of government after the Great Depression. For example the OMB is a way for presidents to conserve and centralized their own influence. The cabinet is not in the Constitution but every president has had one and it’s a loosely designed body.
* The paradox of greatness coincides with the accountability of a president. Public opinion influences many things, such as the reelection and legacy of the president as well. Most presidents lose support over time and that will reflect on their reelection and legacy in the future. The public’s declining support for a president is also an example of how presidents cannot always live up to the paradox of greatness expected of them.

**For Further Information:** See pages 286-293 in textbook.