

Mann and Ornstein – Is Congress Still the Broken Branch?

(Ch. 3)

1. Similarities between 1994 election and 2006 election -
Corruption in Congress after long period of one-party
control.
2. Polarization exacerbates everything - decline of the
moderates and the rise of the ideologues.
3. Unpopularity of George W. Bush and the Iraq War with
Democrats.
4. Bush falls back on the Veto.
5. CONGRESS VERY UNPOPULAR but Republicans had trashed their
"brand name"
6. Public Opinion is Contradictory!!!!!!
 - a. On the One Hand they Want Congress to *Solve Problems*
 - b. On the Other Hand they Deeply Dislike the way Congress
Normally Operates -- Debate, Conflict, Partisan
"Bickering", Nefarious "Special Interests" -- They do
not Like Seeing the Sausage Made!

7. People Believe that Problems can be Solved if Only
Politicians Would Just Sit Down Together and "Work it Out".
IN THE POLARIZED ATMOSPHERE OF THE 110th CONGRESS THIS WAS
IMPOSSIBLE!!