## CHECKS AND BALANCES

### EXECUTIVE ON LEGISLATION

| Recommend legislation – State of the Union Address on prime time TV to HoR/ Senate/ Supreme Court/ Cabinet | 1975 Ford said ‘The state of the Union is not good’ after the Watergate scandal.  
1996 Clinton states the ‘era of big government is over’.  
2002 George W. Bush focus on ‘war on terrorism’/ ‘axis of evil’ and budget.  
2015 Obama remained focused on domestic policy: increasing taxes on financial institutions and access to higher education. |
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| Veto legislation | Roosevelt in his 12 years of office vetoed 635 bills.  
2001-09 Bush used the regular veto x11 – 2007 State Children’s Health Insurance Programme (S-CHIP)  
Obama has vetoed 4 bills – 2015 Keystone XL pipeline which would transfer oil from the Canadian tar sands to the US refineries on the Gulf coast: a success for environmentalists. |

### EXECUTIVE ON JUDICIARY

| Appointment of judges – Nominates all federal judges to the trial court, appeal court and Supreme Court | G. W. Bush nominated Samuel A. Alito, Jr who had been a member of the conservative Princeton alumni group.  
Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor (2009) the first Hispanic women and who was accused of racism by Republican Newt Gingrich. Also, Elena Kagan (2010) who identifies with Conservative Judaism, a modern branch that is more liberal than the mainstream religion.  
These nominations illustrate how the president can mould the outlook of the Judiciary to one that they share. |
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| Pardon – excuses crimes and revokes the punishment of the courts | 1971 Nixon pardoned James Hoffa, the head of the trade union Teamster, after he was imprisoned for tampering and fraud. Nixon’s condition was Hoffa should engage with any management of a labour organisation until 1980: he agreed and supported Nixon’s 1972 re-election bid.  
1974 Ford pardoned Nixon over Watergate.  
2001 Clinton pardoned notorious tax fugitive, Mark Rich. His former wife had made substantial donations to Mrs. Clintons |