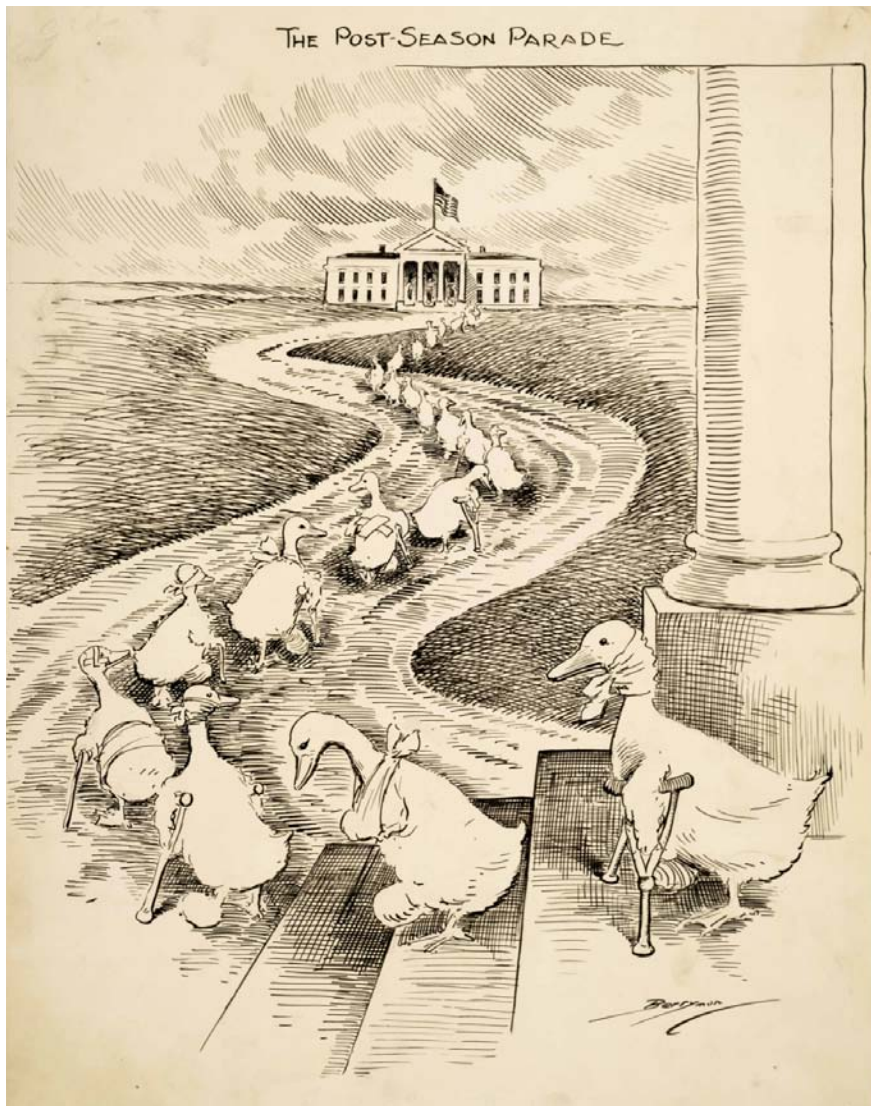


# Cartoons for the Classroom



Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Clifford Berryman: 03/05/1915

## Between the lines

In politics, the term "lame duck" refers to an elected official whose term of office has not yet expired but who has failed to get re-elected and therefore cannot garner much political support for initiatives.

This 1915 cartoon shows "lame duck" members of Congress departing Capitol Hill after losing their bid for reelection. The lame ducks shown are defeated Democrats heading to the White House hoping to secure political appointments from then-President Woodrow Wilson.

The Lame Duck Amendment, 20th to the U.S. Constitution, calls for Congress and each new President to take office in January instead of March (as before), thereby eliminating the lame-duck session of Congress. But for the period between the November election and the January inauguration and new Congress, the lame ducks keep quacking.

## Sources

American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms, Houghton Mifflin Company

National Archives

Berryman, Clifford Kennedy, 1869-1949, Artist

## Visual idiom: A lame duck

### Talking points

1. Patrick Corrigan's caricature of George W. Bush as a lame duck shows the 43rd president giving his crutch to a variety of "special interests." Write a paragraph interpreting the cartoon -- what did each of the special interests want? Was President Bush in a position to help them?
2. Is there some advantage to being a lame duck politician?
3. Let's get the ball rolling: Define "idiom" and then provide some more examples of phrases that are part of the American idiom.



Patrick Corrigan, The Toronto Star, Courtesy Cagle Cartoons

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