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MAJOR ACTS OF CONGRESS
AND
TREATIES APPROVED BY THE SENATE
1789-1980

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ABSTRACT

During the nearly two centuries since the framing of the Constitution, more than 41,000 public bills have been approved by Congress, submitted to the President for his approval and become law. The seven hundred or so acts summarized in this compilation represent the major acts approved by Congress in its efforts to determine national policies to be carried out by the executive branch, to authorize appropriations to carry out these policies, and to fulfill its responsibility of assuring that such actions are being carried out in accordance with congressional intent. Also included are those treaties considered to be of similar importance.

An extensive index allows each entry in this work to be located with relative ease.

The authors wish to credit Daphine Lee, Larry Nunley, and Lenora Pruitt for the secretarial production of this report.

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INTRODUCTION

On November 15, 1777, a year and a half after the Declaration of Independence was signed, the Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation. Ratification of the Articles, the first effort by Americans to provide a written constitution for "the United States of America," was finally completed early in 1781.

Under the Articles the States retained control over most essential governmental functions, and Congress—in which each State had an equal vote—was the sole organ of central government. In their attempt to avoid anything like the centralized system under which Great Britain had ruled her colonies, however, the colonists left their own government too weak to perform its necessary functions and duties.

Almost from the outset, this loose confederation of thirteen States was beset with serious problems. These for the most part resulted from basic defects in the Articles themselves which failed to give Congress control over taxation and trade, made no provisions for a Federal executive or judiciary, and avoided any sanctions which would have made possible enforcement of its decisions.

Even when the inadequacies of the Articles became glaringly apparent, unanimous consent for amendments was impossible to obtain. As a consequence the States found it necessary to take upon themselves the responsibility of settling many of their common problems. In March 1785 delegates from Virginia and Maryland met first at Alexandria, Virginia, and then at Mount Vernon, hoping to settle various disputes relating to the navigation of the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. The success of that meeting prompted Virginia to issue an invitation to all the States to meet at Annapolis in the following year, to consider commercial reforms.

The achievements of the 12 delegates from Virginia, Delaware, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania who met in the State House at Annapolis on September 11-14, 1786, were not as readily apparent. The only resolution adopted called for a general meeting of delegates from all thirteen States in Philadelphia the following May to consider what steps were "necessary to render the Constitution of the Federal Government adequate to the exigencies of the Union." But, as it turned out, the delegates who met in Philadelphia formed the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

The Constitution which emerged from those deliberations empowered Congress with the authority through the passage of laws to tax, spend, and borrow; to regulate foreign and interstate commerce; to maintain a defense establishment; to declare war; to admit new States; and to propose constitutional amendments. The Senate alone was given the authority to approve treaties, and advise and consent on Presidential appointments.

During the nearly two centuries since, more than 41,000 public acts have been approved by Congress, submitted to the President for his approval, and become law. The seven hundred or so acts summarized in this compilation represent the major acts approved by Congress in its efforts to determine the national policies to be carried out by the executive branch, to authorize appropriations to carry out these policies, and to fulfill its responsibility of assuring that such actions are being carried out in accordance with congressional intent. Also included are those treaties of similar importance.

In selecting laws for inclusion in this compilation, the authors consulted a wide range of general works on America history as well as experts in each of the various areas of expertise throughout the Congressional Research Service. Although some major laws no doubt have been inadvertently omitted, what has resulted is a document which shows how Congress has created and enlarged the responsibilities of the Federal government, and portrays the institutional development of the U.S. Government, the changing pattern of Federal-State relations, and the continuing definition of Constitutional rights.

FIRST CONGRESS
March 4, 1789-March 3, 1791
(First Administration of George Washington)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Only a few hundred bills were introduced during the First Congress; 108 were enacted into law. Most dealt with the establishment of the new Government and its relations with the States, or with matters of defense or foreign policy.

President George Washington made only a few suggestions for legislation and scrupulously refrained from disclosing his views on matters being considered by Congress. In the absence of Presidential initiative three men guided Congress: Representative James Madison, Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. For the first five months, Madison had the job virtually to himself, for no other Member of Congress combined the requisite political talents with the imagination that the new situation demanded.

At Madison's instance, Hamilton, after being appointed Secretary of the Treasury on September 11, 1789, was authorized to prepare plans for collecting revenue and sustaining credit which were subsequently presented to the House of Representatives, which under the Constitution had the sole right to initiate money bills. Secretary of State Jefferson's influence stemmed from his close friendship and alliance with Madison.

In ratifying the Constitution, six States had suggested amendments which should be added specifically safeguarding individual rights. Many of the legislators elected to the First Congress arrived in New York prepared to carry out these suggestions. Although Madison had opposed a bill of rights both before and during ratification, when it became clear to him that a national consensus favored one, he decided to draft it himself.

From these proposals, which Madison first introduced in June 1789, there emerged twelve proposed amendments to the Constitution, ten of which were ratified by the requisite number of States in December 1791. The two proposed Amendments which did not become part of the Constitution would have prescribed the ratio of Members in the House of Representatives and specified that no law varying the compensation of Members should be effective until after an intervening election of Representatives.

By adopting the Bill of Rights and by enacting the Judiciary Act of 1789, which established Federal Courts, Congress completed the work of the Constitutional Convention and helped to secure the legacy of the Revolution. Congress also devoted considerable attention during the First Congress to setting up the executive departments authorized in the Constitution. To ease the economic burdens of the new Nation, the First Congress approved a tariff on imported goods for purposes of revenue as well as legislation providing for a National Bank. It also provided for a Postmaster General and a post office.

MAJOR ACTS

Tariff Act of 1789. Designed to raise money to pay Government wages and obligations and to fund the national debt. It contained many of the characteristics found in later tariff acts. Most imported goods were subject to a 5-percent-ad-valorem duty, which meant simply that they were taxed at 5 percent of their value. The act also listed a number of specific duties on particular items regardless of their value. The mixing of ad valorem and specific duties would become the standard practice of U.S. trade acts. The overall level of the taxes averaged about 8 1/2 percent. Approved July 4, 1789. (1 Stat. 24-27)

Department of Foreign Affairs. Established the Department of Foreign Affairs and defined the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary for the Department. Approved July 27, 1789. (1 Stat. 28-29) Name changed to the Department of State on September 15, 1789. (1 Stat. 68-69)

Department of War. Established the Department of War and defined the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary of War. Approved August 7, 1789. (1 Stat. 49-50)

Treasury Department. Established the Treasury Department, designated the principal officers to be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and defined duties and responsibilities of these officers as well as those of the Secretary. Approved September 2, 1789. (1 Stat. 65-67)

Office of Postmaster General. Provided for the temporary appointment of a Postmaster General, and assistants or clerks and deputies which he might appoint, and the same regulations of the post-office under the Articles of Confederation. The Postmaster General was to "be subject to the President of the United States in performing the duties of his office and in forming contracts for transporting of the mail." Approved September 22, 1789. (1 Stat. 70)

Judiciary Act of 1789. Implemented the judiciary clause of the Constitution by organizing the Federal judiciary. Provided for a Supreme Court of six members, three intermediate Circuit Courts comprising two Supreme Court judges and a District judge, and thirteen District Courts, corresponding roughly to State boundaries, with a judge for each. Approved September 24, 1789. (1 Stat. 73-93)

Bill of Rights (First Ten Amendments). Provided for the freedom of religion, speech, and the press; "the right of people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances." (Article I) Guaranteed the right of the people to bear arms. (Article II) Forbade the Government from quartering troops in private homes in times of peace without the consent of the owner and in times of war only as prescribed by law. (Article III) Protected the people against unreasonable searches and seizures. (Article IV) Outlawed double jeopardy and the deprivation of life, limb, and property without due process of law. (Article V) Guaranteed the right to a speedy and impartial jury trial and the right to defense counsel. (Articles VI and VII) Prohibited excessive bail or fines and cruel and unusual punishment. (Article VIII) Declared that the enumeration of these rights could not be construed to deny others retained by the people. (Article IX) Declared that powers not delegated to the U.S. by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to to the States, or the people. (Article X) Approved September 29, 1789. Ratified by requisite number of States December 15, 1791. (1 Stat. 97-98)

First Census. Article I, section 2, clause 3 of the Constitution, which provides that Representatives "shall be apportioned among the several States . . . according to their representative numbers," provides also for a decennial census to furnish the necessary basis for such apportionment. With this act the United States became the first Nation in the world to provide by law for the periodic enumeration of its people. Approved March 1, 1790. (1 Stat. 101-103)

Uniform Rule of Naturalization. Established a uniform rule for naturalization for white free persons who had resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for two years. Approved March 26, 1790. (1 Stat. 103-104)

First Patent Law. Provided a 3-man board with the power to grant patents. Board members included the Secretaries of State and War, and the Attorney General. Approved April 10, 1790. (1 Stat. 109-112)

First Copyright Law. Provided for protection of plays, maps, and books for 14 years with the right of renewal for another 14 years. Title page had to be deposited in the clerk's office of the local U.S. District Court. Approved May 31, 1790. (1 Stat. 124-126)

Permanent Seat of Government. Established the permanent seat of the nation in a district 10 miles square on the Potomac River beginning in 1800. Until that time the Capital would be Philadelphia. Provided rules for the purchase of land or the acceptance of grants of land on which to construct buildings for the housing of Congress, the President, and other public offices of the Government. Approved July 16, 1790. (1 Stat. 130)

Funding and Assumption Act of 1790. Provided for assumption by the Federal Government of debts which the States had incurred as a result of their participation in the Revolutionary War. These debts in the late 1780s were largely in the form of bonds which northern financiers had bought up

at low prices. Since Virginia had already paid its debts of this kind, many Virginians, along with other Southerners, objected to assumption of the State debts by the national Government. But in mid-May 1790, Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, and two Members of Congress from Virginia met around Jefferson's supper table in New York and agreed that, in return for Hamilton's securing Northern support for a southern capital, the Virginians would vote for assumption. Approved August 4, 1790. (1 Stat. 138-144)

First Bank of the United States. Incorporated the Bank of the United States, a national bank, with a capital stock of \$10,000,000. Specified how its directors were to be selected, the disposition of dividends, and the method of advancing and lending its money. Approved February 25, 1791. (1 Stat. 191-196)

First Internal Revenue Law. Created 14 revenue districts and a tax of 20 to 30 cents a gallon on distilled liquors not only imported but distilled in the United States. Approved March 3, 1791. (1 Stat. 199-214)

SECOND CONGRESS
October 24, 1791-March 2, 1793
(First Administration of George Washington)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Even during Washington's first Administration, party lines had begun to be drawn over domestic and financial issues. Beginning in 1792, deep-seated philosophical differences between the contending "factions" began to emerge. As a consequence of this development, and the fact that many of the organizational needs of the new Government had already been resolved there was a substantial decline in the legislative initiatives approved in the Second Congress. The most important of these clarified Presidential succession, led to the establishment of the first U.S. mint in Philadelphia, authorized the first national conscription, and created the mechanism for slaveowners to recover fugitive slaves.

MAJOR ACTS

Presidential Succession Act. Provided that if the President and Vice President were both removed, resigned, or died in office, the President pro tempore of the Senate (followed by the Speaker of the House) was to act as President until the disability was removed or a President elected. Approved March 1, 1792. (1 Stat. 239-241)

First U.S. Mint. Authorized establishment of the first U.S. mint, to be constructed at Philadelphia, and prescribed a decimal system of coinage: dollars, desimes, cents, and milles. The U.S. dollar was to contain 24.75 grains of gold or 371.25 grains of silver, in a fixed legal-tender ratio of 15 to 1. Approved April 2, 1792. (1 Stat. 246-251)

Militia Act. Required "each and every free able-bodied white male citizen of the Republic" between the ages of 18 and 45 to serve in a State militia." Approved May 8, 1792. (1 Stat. 271-274)

Fugitive Slave Act of 1793. Empowered owners of fugitive slaves, or their agents, to seize a fugitive and return him to servitude by presenting an affidavit of ownership to specified State or Federal officials, who were required to enforce the law. Approved February 12, 1793. (1 Stat. 302-305)

THIRD CONGRESS
December 2, 1793-March 3, 1795
(Second Administration of George Washington)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Foreign policy became a major factor during Washington's second Administration. The on-going French Revolution was viewed with alarm by the Governments of Great Britain, Spain, and Holland, and by the Federalist party in the United States. The French issue was injected into U.S. domestic affairs after France declared war on Great Britain, Spain, and Holland on February 1, 1793.

A decision by the U.S. Supreme Court against the State of Georgia led to the Eleventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, restricting jurisdiction of the Federal courts two years later.

MAJOR ACTS

Eleventh Amendment. Denied the right of the judiciary to recognize as valid any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another State or by citizens or subjects of any foreign State. Approved March 4, 1794. Ratified by requisite number of States February 7, 1795. (1 Stat. 402)

Formation of U.S. Navy. Authorized the construction and manning of 4 frigates of 44 guns and 2 of 36 guns. Further empowered the pay of the petty officers, midshipmen, seamen, ordinary seamen and marines to be fixed by the President. Approved March 27, 1794. (1 Stat. 350-351)

Neutrality Act. Forbade United States citizens to enlist in the services of any foreign power or to give aid to any hostile force, and prohibited the fitting out of foreign vessels in American ports. Approved June 5, 1794. (1 Stat. 381-384)

Naturalization Act. Required that for aliens to become citizens they had first to reside in the United States for at least five years and be willing to renounce forever allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty before citizenship could be granted. Approved January 29, 1795. (1 Stat. 414-415)

FOURTH CONGRESS
December 7, 1795-March 3, 1797
(Second Administration of George Washington)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

War with Great Britain over the imprisonment of American seamen appeared imminent in 1794 before there were successful negotiations between agents of the U.S. and Great Britain. The U.S. delegation was headed by John Jay, Chief Justice of the U.S. Once the terms of the Jay Treaty became known, protest arose from all parts of the country, but the Senate ratified it and trade rather than quarrels became paramount.

Ratification of Pickney's Treaty on March 3, 1796, climaxed twelve years of disputes with Spain over the western and southern boundaries of the United States and navigation of the Mississippi River. Other significant treaties ratified by the Senate during the Fourth Congress involved the North African pirate State of Algiers, which raided U.S. shipping and exacted subsidies from the U.S. Government.

Attempting to keep American settlers out of contact with the Indians and European settlers in the western lands, Congress, in May 1796, declared an end to westward expansion (without success).

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Jay's Treaty. Provided for withdrawal of British military forces from posts located in the American Northwest on or before June 1, 1796; admission of U.S. vessels to British East Indian ports on a nondiscriminatory basis; opening of West Indian trade to U.S. vessels not exceeding 70 tons burden on the condition that Americans renounce carrying trade in such staples as cotton, sugar, and molasses; refusal to joint commissions of the payment of pre-Revolutionary debts, the northeast boundary question, and compensation for illegal maritime seizures; and placing the British trade with the U.S. on a most-favored-nation basis. Concluded November 19, 1794. Approved by the Senate June 24, 1795. (8 Stat. 116-132)

Treaty of Amity With Algiers. Provided for the payment to the Dey of Algiers of approximately \$1 million as overdue tribute to ransom 115 seamen captured by the Barbary pirates. Concluded September 5, 1795. Approved by the Senate March 2, 1796. (8 Stat. 133-137)

Treaty of San Lorenzo (Pinckney's Treaty). Defined the border between Spanish West Florida and western Georgia (Mississippi Territory), established commercial relations with Spain, and provided for the free navigation of the Mississippi River by American citizens and Spanish subjects with the right to deposit cargo at New Orleans. Concluded October 27, 1795. Approved by the Senate March 3, 1796. (8 Stat. 138-153)

Land Act of 1796. Provided for surveys of all public lands within the old Northwest Territory and public auction sale of public domain land. Required that each sale consist of at least 640 acres, at a minimum of \$2.00 per acre, payable in one year. The 1796 Act further developed the system, established by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 under the Congress of the Confederation, for the regular assimilation of land under the Union. Approved May 18, 1796. (1 Stat. 464-469)

An Act to Regulate Trade and Intercourse with the Indian Tribes. Established a boundary line between the United States and various Indian tribes, beyond which Americans were denied the right to hunt, trap, and fish. Approved May 19, 1796 (1 Stat. 469-474)

An Act for the Relief and Protection of American Seamen. Authorized the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint two or more officers to investigate all charges of the impressment and detention of American seamen into the naval service of foreign governments. Approved May 28, 1796. (1 Stat. 477-478)

FIFTH CONGRESS
May 15, 1797-March 3, 1799
(Administration of John Adams)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The French Government, angered by Jay's Treaty with Great Britain, interfered with U.S. shipping and refused to receive the U.S. Minister to France. When a U.S. commission was dispatched to France with orders to secure a treaty of commerce and amity, it was presented with an unofficial request for a U.S. loan to France and a bribe of \$240,000 (very similar to the arrangement already in effect with the Barbary States of Algiers and Tripoli, arranged under the Washington Administration, and Morocco, arranged under the Articles of Confederation). The U.S. commissioners rejected the French proposal, which action ushered in an undeclared naval war with France, lasting from 1798 to 1800.

President Adams' handling of the French crisis created a schism in the Federalist party. The President favored and Congress passed the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, aimed at suppressing political opposition to American foreign policy.

MAJOR ACTS

Naval Armament for the Protection of American Commerce. Authorized the President to cause to be built, purchased, or hired as many as twelve naval vessels, to be fitted out with no more than twenty-two guns apiece, and to appoint the officers and men for the service of said vessels, to be used for the Nation's defense. Approved April 27, 1798. (1 Stat. 552)

Department of the Navy. Established the Department of the Navy, to be directed by a new cabinet officer, the Secretary of the Navy, whose duties were to include the procurement of naval stores and materials and the construction, armament, equipment, and employment of vessels of war. The new act required repeal of part of the law establishing the War Department, enacted in 1789. Approved April 30, 1798. (1 Stat. 553-554)

Naturalization Act (First of Alien and Sedition Acts). Amended the Naturalization Law of January 29, 1795 (1 Stat. 414), to provide that no alien may become a citizen unless he shall have declared his intention of becoming such five years in advance, at which point he must prove fourteen years' residence within the United States and five years' residence within the State where he applies, besides otherwise superceded the former act. Approved June 18, 1798. (1 Stat. 566-569)

Alien Act (Second of the Alien and Sedition Acts). Granted authority to the President, over a two-year period, to order the deportation of aliens adjudged to be undesirable, and to require the licensing of certain other aliens. Approved June 25, 1798. (1 Stat. 570-572)

Alien Enemies Act (Third of the Alien and Sedition Acts). Provided that in the case of war, or actual threatened invasion, the President is empowered to make a proclamation declaring certain alien residents of the United States inimical to the national purpose. If not chargeable with crimes against the public safety, time shall be allowed for the departure of such aliens. All courts of criminal jurisdiction may hear and receive complaints against suspected alien enemies. Approved July 6, 1798. (1 Stat. 577-578)

Marine Corps Act. Organized the Marine Corps into a distinct Service of the United States Government and provided the basis for assigning duties to the new Corps, and for 149 years, with minor changes, remained the legal authority for Marine Corps missions. Approved July 11, 1798. (1 Stat. 594-596)

Sedition Act (Fourth of the Alien and Sedition Acts). Provided for the arrest and imprisonment of any person, citizen or alien, who attempted to impede lawful processes of government, foment insurrection, or write, publish, or utter any false or malicious statement about the President, Vice President, Congress, or the Government of the United States. The authority of the act expired March 3, 1801. The legislatures of Kentucky and Virginia each passed resolutions, framed by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison respectively, invoking the compact theory of the Constitution and maintaining that the Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional. Approved July 14, 1798. (1 Stat. 596-597)

SIXTH CONGRESS
December 2, 1799-March 3, 1801
(Administration of John Adams)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1800 the Federalists lost both the Presidential and congressional elections. The Republicans did not take office until March 4, 1801, however, and the Federalists, who had a solid majority in both Houses of Congress, sought to entrench themselves through the Federal Judiciary Act of February 7, 1801. During the remaining weeks of his Presidency, Adams filled all the newly created posts created by the Act and commissioned a great many minor appointments. In April 1802, soon after the Republicans became the party in power, they repealed the Act.

Thomas Jefferson's election by the House of Representatives on February 17, 1801, resolved one of the great constitutional-political crises in our Nation's history. Although Aaron Burr had sought only the Vice Presidency in the election of 1800, by virtue of his receiving the same number of electoral votes as Jefferson, the House of Representatives was constitutionally required to elect the President. Ultimately, this led to the adoption of the twelfth amendment four years later.

MAJOR ACTS

First Federal Bankruptcy Law. Established a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States for merchants and traders. Approved April 4, 1800. (2 Stat. 19-36)

Removal of Government to Washington. Provided for the removal of the Government to the city of Washington, furnishings for the President's house, accommodations in the new Capital for the Secretaries of the four executive departments, and money for a congressional library. Approved April 24, 1800. (2 Stat. 55-56)

Indiana and Ohio Territories. Divided the Northwest Territory into the Indiana and Ohio Territories, which were separated by a line running due north from the confluence of the Kentucky and Ohio Rivers. Approved May 7, 1800. (2 Stat. 58-60)

Judiciary Act of 1801. Increased the number of District Courts to twenty-one, established six circuit courts to be staffed by sixteen new and separate circuit judges, and provided for a host of additional marshals, clerks, and bailiffs. It also reduced the number of Supreme Court Judges from six to five. Approved February 13, 1801. (2 Stat. 89-100) Repealed March 8, 1802. (2 Stat. 132)

SEVENTH CONGRESS
December 7, 1801-March 3, 1803
(First Administration of Thomas Jefferson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Despite the quasi-war with France and Federalist opposition, John Adams during his last few weeks in the White House continued to seek a settlement with France. Finally, on September 30, 1800, in Paris, an American diplomatic mission was able to sign a Convention with the French Government. Adams submitted the Treaty of Morfontaine to the Senate on December 16, 1800. Only after the Senate had expunged the second article of the Convention, and the French Government approved the change, was the treaty finally approved a year later.

In 1802, the Seventh Congress established the United States Military Academy at West Point, repealed the Judiciary Act of 1801, and enacted a plan whereby most of the States would subsequently attain statehood.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Treaty of Morfontaine (Convention of 1800 with France). Provided for a "firm, invincible, and universal . . . peace between the French Republic, and the United States of America" Also released the United States from its 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France (already unilaterally abrogated by the United States in 1798) and the French from American claims totalling \$20,000,000 for damage done American commerce by French vessels. Concluded September 30, 1800. Ratified as amended by the French Government on July 31, 1801. Approved by the Senate on December 21, 1801. (8 Stat. 178-195)

U.S. Military Academy. Authorized the establishment of the United States Military Academy at West Point in the State of New York. The Academy was formally opened on July 4. Approved March 16, 1802. (2 Stat. 137)

Repeal of the Judiciary Act of 1801. Restored the number of Supreme Court Justices to six and set up six circuit courts, each headed by a Supreme Court Justice. Approved April 29, 1802. (2 Stat. 156-167)

First Enabling Act. Authorized the people of the eastern division of the Northwest Territory to hold a convention and frame a constitution in order to become a State. The precedent set in Ohio's gaining statehood became the customary procedural form for attaining statehood. This new mechanism allowed Congress to reaffirm its authority over its territorial possession by providing a transition period during which the people could school themselves in the democratic tradition by drafting their own Constitution and organizing their own State government. Approved April 30, 1802. (2 Stat. 173-175)

EIGHTH CONGRESS
October 17, 1803-March 3, 1805
(First Administration of Thomas Jefferson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Although philosophically reluctant to exercise strong executive authority, President Jefferson arranged, without legislative sanction, the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from the French Government in 1803. Jefferson also endorsed the National Bank Act of 1804, even though he had opposed Federalist demands under Washington and Adams for a stronger, more centralized national financial structure.

Meanwhile, Congress on its own proposed the Twelfth Amendment to provide for separate balloting by Presidential electors for President and Vice President, thus avoiding the possibility of another constitutional crisis like that of 1801.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Louisiana Purchase Treaty. Provided that France cede all of Louisiana to the United States for 80,000,000 francs (about \$15 million), including 20,000,000 francs for assumption of American claims against France. Its boundaries to the west and south were not specified, but they were generally considered to embrace the Isles of Orleans on the east bank of the Mississippi River and the vast area between the river, the Rocky Mountains, and the Spanish possessions in the Southwest. Approved April 30, 1803. Approved by the Senate October 20, 1803. (8 Stat. 200-206)

Twelfth Amendment. Provided for separate voting by electors for President and Vice President. The person receiving a majority of the votes for the office of President would be President and the person receiving a majority of the votes for Vice President would be Vice President. If no candidate received a majority, then the House, voting by States, would elect the President, and the Senate would elect the Vice President. Proposed December 9, 1803. Ratification completed June 15, 1804. (2 Stat. 306)

Second National Bank Act. Supplemented the National Bank Act of 1791 by authorizing bank officials to establish offices of discount and deposit in any part of the territories or dependencies of the United States. Approved March 23, 1804. (2 Stat. 274)

NINTH CONGRESS
December 2, 1805-March 3, 1807
(Second Administration of Thomas Jefferson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Although Jeffersonian Republican politicians were soon to align themselves against the practice of constructing roads and waterways at Federal expense, the Jefferson administration supported and promoted a measure enacted in 1806 looking to construction of a National road from Cumberland, Maryland, on the upper Potomac to Wheeling, Virginia, on the Ohio River. The "National Pike" was to become the most important route for immigrants to the Northwest until 1840.

Later in 1806, as the British and French escalated their practice of seizing and searching American vessels engaged in trade with either nation, President Jefferson unsuccessfully sought to secure a change in the attitude of the belligerents. Congress even went so far as to pass a non-importation act, issue condemnations of impressment and seizure actions, and even threatened to withhold all trade from both powers; still the problem persisted. Jefferson's attempt to secure a treaty with Great Britain resulted in a document which so embarrassed the President that the treaty was not even submitted to the Senate for approval.

Prior to the close of the Ninth Congress the following March, Jefferson signed legislation increasing the number of Supreme Court Justices to seven and an act prohibiting the importation of slaves after January 1, 1808.

MAJOR ACTS

Cumberland Road Act. Authorized a commission to direct the construction of a national road to run from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, Virginia, on the Ohio River. Approved March 29, 1806. (2 Stat. 357-359)

Non-Importation Act. Banned the entry into the United States of specific British goods after November 15, but its effective date was delayed by order of the President. Approved April 18, 1806. (2 Stat. 379-381)

Judiciary Act of 1807. Increased the number of Supreme Court Justices from six to seven. Approved February 24, 1807. (2 Stat. 421)

Slave Trade Prohibition Act. Prohibited the African slave trade and importation of slaves into any place within the jurisdiction of the United States after January 1, 1808. Provided a penalty of forfeiture of vessels and cargo, with disposal of seized slaves to be left to the State in which the ship was condemned. Approved March 2, 1807. (2 Stat. 426-430)

TENTH CONGRESS
October 26, 1807-March 3, 1809
(Second Administration of Thomas Jefferson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On June 22, 1807, the U.S.S. Chesapeake, a 38-gun frigate, was fired upon by the British warship H.M.S. Leopard off Cape Henry. After taking three broadsides, with 21 casualties (including three dead), the ship was forcibly boarded and four men were taken off on the grounds that they were British deserters. An indignant American public clamored for war, but President Jefferson instead, on July 2, ordered all British warships to leave American waters.

After the British announced that they would continue to pursue the practice of impressment even more vigorously, Jefferson asked Congress to establish an embargo on U.S. shipping to European ports. That December Congress approved the Embargo Act, which satisfied the President's request. When the economic repercussions of this policy, together with the continual oppression of American shipping by both the British and French, proved too great for the United States to endure, the embargo was replaced by a law in March 1809 which reopened trade with all nations except Great Britain and France, and authorized the President to proclaim a resumption of trade with either nation in the event they ceased violating American neutral rights.

MAJOR ACTS

Embargo Act. Laid an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States, thereby preventing them from engaging in commercial intercourse with foreign countries. Approved December 22, 1807. (2 Stat. 451-453)

Non-Intercourse Act. Repealed the Embargo Act of 1807. Reopened trade with all nations except Great Britain and France, and authorized the President to revive trade with either of these nations if they agreed to stop violating American neutral rights on the seas. Approved March 1, 1809. (2 Stat. 528-533)

ELEVENTH CONGRESS
May 22, 1809-March 3, 1811
(First Administration of James Madison)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

With national economic conditions in a continuing state of depression, the Madison administration agreed to lift the provisions of the Embargo and Non-Intercourse Acts of 1809. Macon's Bill No. 2, enacted by Congress on May 1, 1810, provided that if France removed its trade restrictions on neutral commerce by March 3, 1811, and Great Britain failed to do so within three months, the President would continue to trade with the former and prohibit trade with the latter and vice versa. Napoleon saw the law as a chance to bring the United States into his Continental system (a plan to blockade and wage economic war against Great Britain).

Despite a warning by John Quincy Adams, the minister to Russia, that Napoleon was setting "a trap to catch us in a war with England," President Madison believed that all French decrees against American shipping would be lifted by November 1. Madison, acting on Napoleon's word, reopened trade with France and declared that commerce with Great Britain would soon cease. But in August, Napoleon issued an additional decree against American shipping. Another six months passed before Madison became aware of Napoleon's duplicity and the likelihood of a British-American conflict meanwhile loomed ever closer.

Madison, however, did take advantage of the interlude in commercial warfare to issue a proclamation on October 27, 1810, announcing that the U.S. had taken possession of West Florida from the Mississippi to the Peridido Rivers and authorized its military occupation as part of the Orleans Territory, which in April 1812 entered the Union as the State of Louisiana. On January 15, 1811, Congress assembled in a secret session and adopted a resolution authorizing extension of U.S. rule over East Florida as well in the event local authority consented to the extension or a foreign power took steps to occupy the territory.

MAJOR ACTS

Macon's Bill Number 2. Designed as a substitute for the unsuccessful Non-Intercourse Act of 1809. Authorized the restoration of all trade with Britain and France, if each recognized American neutrality. If they refused, trade with either or both would cease. Approved May 1, 1810. (2 Stat. 605-606)

Extension of U.S. Rule Over West Florida. Authorized the President to take possession of, and occupy, all or any part of the territory lying east of the Peridido River and south of the State of Georgia and the Mississippi Territory. Approved January 15, 1811. (3 Stat. 471-472)

TWELFTH CONGRESS
November 4, 1811-March 3, 1813
(First Administration of James Madison)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ultimately, President Madison concluded that neither diplomacy nor economic coercion would stop the violations of American neutrality rights by the European belligerents and that the only course consistent with national honor was war against Britain, the chief offender. Any lingering doubts he had regarding this decision were removed by the "War Hawks," who threatened to block his re-election unless he agreed to a war against Britain. On June 1, 1812, Madison sent a message to Congress asking for a declaration of war. He cited, as the principal points of irreconcilability with the British, their policy of impressing seamen, their disregard for normal trading relationships between sovereign powers, and evidence that they were encouraging the Indians to warlike acts. War was declared by Congress seventeen days later.

MAJOR ACTS

Declaration of War Against Great Britain and Ireland. Declared that war existed between Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, and the United States and their territories. Authorized the President to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry out the war. Approved June 18, 1812. (2 Stat. 755)

Act to Enlarge the Limits of the State of Louisiana. Annexed the so-called Florida Parishes—that part of West Florida lying between the Mississippi and Pearl Rivers south of the 31th parallel—to the new State of Louisiana. Approved April 14, 1812. (2 Stat. 708-709)

Act to Enlarge the Boundaries of the Mississippi Territory. Annexed the eastern part of West Florida, from the Pearl River to the Perdido, along the Gulf Coast, to the Territory of Mississippi. Approved May 14, 1812. (2 Stat. 734)

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
May 24, 1813-March 3, 1815
(Second Administration of James Madison)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After the British raided Washington and burned the Capitol, the White House, and all the executive departments except the Patent Office in August 1814, the Americans began to stiffen their resistance. When the bombardment of Fort McHenry failed a month later, the British assault against Baltimore was abandoned. Meanwhile, General Andrew Jackson was successful in the Mississippi Territory, marking the beginning of the long anticipated conquest of West Florida. The British advance was halted in the defense of New Orleans. On the day before Christmas, the British and U.S. negotiators, meeting in Ghent, reached an agreement, which was embodied in the Treaty of Ghent. The fighting continued until word of the Treaty reached New York the following February.

By this time former President Thomas Jefferson's personal library of 7,000 volumes had been sold to the Government to become the nucleus of another Library of Congress, replacing that burned by the British a few months earlier.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Purchase of the Library of Thomas Jefferson. Authorized the purchase of the library of Thomas Jefferson for the use of Congress at a sum of \$23,950. Approved January 30, 1815. (3 Stat. 195)

Treaty of Ghent. Provided for release of all prisoners taken in the War of 1812, restoration of all territory taken in that war (except West Florida), and for appointment of an arbitral commission to settle the northeastern boundary between the U.S. and Canada. Concluded December 24, 1814. Approved by the the Senate, February 16, 1815. (8 Stat. 218-223)

Reduction of Naval Establishment. Established a Board of Navy Commissioners. Put Navy's gunboat flotilla up for sale, stripped armed U.S. vessels on the Great Lakes of their equipment and ordered them to be sold or laid up. Approved February 27, 1815. (3 Stat. 217-218)

Fixing the Peacetime Military Establishment. Established a peacetime standing army of 10,000 men. Approved March 3, 1815. (3 Stat. 224-225)

Declaration of War Against Algiers. Declared war against Algiers which had been molesting American ships and insisting upon payment of tribute. Approved March 3, 1815. (3 Stat. 230)

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
December 4, 1815-March 3, 1817
(Second Administration of James Madison)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The War of 1812 depleted the Federal treasury, and virtual financial chaos followed. President James Madison, primarily to obtain revenue but also to prevent America from becoming a British economic colony, proposed the enactment of a protective tariff in his December 5, 1815, message to Congress. The following February, Congress enacted Madison's request.

In creating the Second Bank of the United States in April 1816, Congress hoped the existence of a responsible fiscal institution would stem inflation.

Madison in his last annual message on December 3, 1816, recommended a constitutional amendment in order that Congress might enlarge its power to effectuate a comprehensive, Federally subsidized, system of roads and canals which would "have the effect of drawing more closely together every part" of the country. To Madison's dismay, Congress ignored the constitutional issue in creating a permanent fund of internal improvements the following February. In response, Madison in his last act as President vetoed the Bonus Bill as being unconstitutional.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Treaty of Peace With Algiers. Terminated the Algerian War; also ended American subsidies to the governments of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli. Concluded June 30 and July 6, 1815. Approved by the Senate December 21, 1815. (8 Stat. 224-227)

Second National Bank of the United States. Created the Second National Bank of the United States for twenty years, with an authorized capital of \$35 million, of which the Government was to subscribe one-fifth, which would serve as a non-interest-paying depository for Federal funds. In return for its charter privileges, the Bank was to pay the Government an annual bonus of \$1,500,000. Approved April 10, 1816. (3 Stat. 266-277)

First Protective Tariff. Placed heavy duties on certain foreign manufactured goods, wares, and merchandise imported into the United States from any foreign port or place, as a means of protecting America's domestic manufactures and eventually to lessen the need for foreign goods. Approved April 27, 1816. (3 Stat. 310-314)

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
December 1, 1817-March 3, 1819
(First Administration of James Monroe)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During 1818 the United States experienced an economic upsurge accompanied by liberal land and credit policies, followed by a speculative boom and an overextension of credit. The Bank of the United States was unable to hold back this inflationary process. 1819 brought with it the first serious financial panic and subsequent depression.

Meanwhile on Capitol Hill, Congress in April 1818 established that the flag of the United States would have 13 horizontal stripes representing the thirteen original States in alternate red and white, and a white star in a field of blue for each State. A few days later, the Senate approved the Rush-Bagot Agreement in which Great Britain and the United States agreed to a limitation of limit their naval forces on the Great Lakes and to a gradual demilitarization of border fortifications between Canada and the United States.

Although immigration was to slow to a trickle for the next decade, Congress in March 1819, did enact the first law which made it possible to compile accurate statistics on those who were subsequently to enter the United States.

MAJOR ACTS

Flag of the United States. Provided that the United States flag was to retain 13 stripes as a permanent part of its design, but a star would be added for each State at the time of admission to the Union. Approved April 4, 1818. (3 Stat. 415)

Rush-Bagot Agreement. Provided for the mutual disarmament on the Great Lakes of the military forces of the United States and Great Britain in the aftermath of the Treaty of Ghent. In addition it provided for the gradual demilitarization of military forces between Canada and the United States. Concluded April 28-29, 1817. Approved by the Senate on April 16, 1818. (8 Stat. 231)

First Immigration Law. Established rules and procedures for passenger ships bringing immigrants to U.S., most important of which was numerical registry of immigration. This made it possible for the first time to compile accurate statistics on immigration. Approved March 2, 1819. (3 Stat. 488-489)

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
December 6, 1819-March 3, 1821
(First Administration of James Monroe)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1820, the first serious controversy based on sectional differences emerged. The proposed admission of Missouri to the Union, potentially a pro-slavery State, threatened to upset the equilibrium which existed among the twenty-two States already in the Union. Although the first Missouri Compromise of March 1820 provided for the admission of Maine as a free State and authorized Missouri to form a constitution and government, it did not end the dispute. When the Missouri constitution was completed, it contained a clause forbidding free Negroes and mulattoes from entering the State.

This clause revived the Missouri controversy, as Northerners claimed that it violated the Federal Constitution which stated that "the citizens of each State shall be entitled to the privileges and immunities of the citizens of the several States," since Negroes were citizens in many States. A majority of the House of Representatives threatened to exclude Missouri from the Union until the clause was eliminated. Finally, early in 1821, Henry Clay offered a resolution requiring Missouri to make a "solemn" promise that it would not, despite the stipulation contained in the State's unamended constitution, enact a law excluding Negroes. Clay's resolution made possible the admission of Missouri as a State

In February 1821, the Senate formally ratified the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819, which settled the issues between Spain and the United States.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Missouri Compromise. Authorized the admission of Maine as a free State. Approved March 3, 1819. (3 Stat. 544) Permitted the people of Missouri to draw up a constitution under which they decided whether or not to permit slavery to exist within the State, and prohibited slavery in the Louisiana Purchase north of the line 36 30', except in Missouri. Approved March 6, 1820. (3 Stat. 545-548) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Scott v. Sandford, 19 How. (60 U.S.) 393 (1857).

Adams-Onís Treaty. Provided that Spain would cede Florida and parts of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi to the United States, renounce all claims to the Oregon Territory. Also established a joint commission to define the borders between the Spanish and United States dominions from the 42d parallel southwest to the Sabine River. Claims of American citizens against Spain amounting to \$5 million were assumed by the U.S. Government. Concluded February 22, 1819. Approved by the Senate February 21, 1819. Ratification again advised by the Senate February 19, 1821. (8 Stat. 252-273)

SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CONGRESSES
December 3, 1821-March 3, 1823
December 1, 1823-March 3, 1825
(Second Administration of James Monroe)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By 1822, nearly all of Spain's Latin American colonies and Portuguese Brazil had declared and won their independence, and Congress began to appropriate funds to defray the expenses of several missions to the newly independent countries as preparations were made to open diplomatic relations. Against this background, President James Monroe in his annual message to Congress on December 2, 1823, declared, in what was to become known as the Monroe Doctrine, that the American continent would no longer be subject to colonization by European powers nor interference in the destinies of independent American governments by any European power.

Because the U.S. Treasury was amply supplied with funds when Congress approved the Tariff Act of May 1824, it was considered the first clearly protectionist tariff in U.S. history. The only justification advanced for the raising of duties on a number of items was that they would insulate American manufactures, farmers, and workers from foreign competition.

When Congress convened in January of 1825, it was faced with yet another first, choosing a President from the three leading candidates—Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, and William H. Crawford—none of whom had gained a majority in the electoral college. On February 9, Adams was chosen as President by the House of Representatives, receiving the votes of 13 States, one more than the required majority.

MAJOR ACTS

Latin American Republics Act. Appropriated \$100,000 for diplomatic missions to certain Latin American Republics recently rendered independent of their former domination by European powers (Columbia, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and Peru). Approved May 4, 1822. (3 Stat. 678)

General Survey Act. Empowered the President to initiate surveys and estimates of the cost of building roads and canals deemed of national importance for military, commercial, or postal purposes. Approved April 30, 1824. (4 Stat. 22-23)

Tariff Act of 1824. Raised the rates on certain items, such as cotton goods, raw wool, and iron, establishing a rate of 37 percent. Approved May 22, 1824. (4 Stat. 25-30)

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CONGRESSES
December 5, 1825-March 3, 1827
December 3, 1827-March 3, 1829
(Administration of John Quincy Adams)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The major legislative issues considered by John Quincy Adams's administration were an invitation received from the Latin American leader Simon Bolivar to send a U.S. delegation to the Panama Conference of 1826 and a proposal for tariff revision in 1828.

A coalition in the Senate led by John C. Calhoun and Martin Van Buren opposed U.S. attendance mainly on the grounds that U.S. participation broke with traditions of independence and neutrality. A number of Southern Senators joined in opposition because slavery had been abolished in many Latin American countries, and because they feared an attack on U.S. slavery interests by Latin American delegates. Ultimately, the Senate approved the mission and dispatched two delegates, but neither ever arrived. Richard C. Anderson died in route, and John Sergeant had gotten only as far as Mexico when the Congress adjourned.

Opponents of a protectionist tariff policy originally planned for the "Tariff of Abominations" of 1828, as many subsequently were to label it, to be so extreme as to discredit the whole protectionist philosophy. Their strategy called for the raising of tariff barriers on almost every conceivable article of domestic manufacture, and Congress willingly joined in, making increasingly upward revisions. The strategy backfired, however, when the advocates of protective rates proved capable of accepting almost anything as long as it promised high duties on the commodities they particularly favored. With his signature on this grotesque bill, President Adams provided the principal issue in the Presidential campaign later in the year which would elevate Andrew Jackson to the White House.

MAJOR ACTS

Mission at the Panama Conference of 1826. Appropriated \$18,000 for two envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary to attend the Panama Conference of 1826. Approved May 4, 1826. (4 Stat. 158)

Tariff of Abominations. Amended the tariff law by raising duties on imported goods in general to a rate of 41 percent, with special attention to cotton, woollens, iron, hemp, flax, wool, molasses, and sailcloth. Approved May 19, 1828. (4 Stat. 270-275)

TWENTY-FIRST CONGRESS
December 7, 1829-March 3, 1831
(First Administration of Andrew Jackson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Upon taking office in 1829, President Andrew Jackson was confronted by several political issues of national importance, including: (1) the growing power of Southern sectionalism; (2) diplomatic controversies with France and England; and (3) the need for an Indian policy.

In his First Annual Message of December 6, 1829, Jackson suggested that Congress set aside "an ample district west of the Mississippi" to be guaranteed to the various Indian tribes as long as they might choose to occupy it, with each tribe having "a distinct control over the portion designated for its use." Six months later, Congress authorized the President to arrange for the removal of the Indians to lands west of the Mississippi. This legislation led during the next several years to the transfer of the Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks, Cherokees, and Seminoles to the region of present-day Oklahoma.

The day after approving the Indian Removal Act of May 28, 1830, Congress granted Jackson the power to reopen American ports as soon as Great Britain agreed to open her colonial ports to American vessels.

Meanwhile, on May 27, 1830, Jackson vetoed a bill authorizing funds for the construction of a 60-mile road from Maysville to Lexington, Kentucky, on the grounds that it involved an unconstitutional use of Federal money for an intrastate project and had no connection with any established system of improvements. If Congress thought subsidizing roads and canals was desirable, Jackson argued, they should be sanctioned by a constitutional amendment.

MAJOR ACTS

Indian Removal Act. Called for the general resettlement of the Indians to lands west of the Mississippi. Congress appropriated \$500,000 to facilitate this effort. Approved May 28, 1830. (4 Stat. 411-412)

Renewing of Commercial Intercourse Between the United States and Certain Colonies of Great Britain. Authorized the President to open the ports of the United States when British colonial ports were opened to American vessels without discrimination. Approved May 29, 1830. (4 Stat. 419-420)

TWENTY-SECOND CONGRESS
December 5, 1831-March 2, 1833
(First Administration of Andrew Jackson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sectional concerns, which grew increasingly troublesome for Jackson, initially focused on a resolution offered by Senator Samuel A. Foote of Connecticut in January 1830 restricting the sale of Government lands in the West. Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri and Robert Y. Haynes of South Carolina denounced the proposal as an eastern plot to check the growth of the West and condemned what they believed to be an unnecessary extension of Federal control over the States. Daniel Webster, in rejecting Haynes' subsequent advancement of the doctrines of State sovereignty and nullification, delivered an eloquent speech concluding with the words "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!" Although Webster's remarks helped forestall the possibility of an South-West alliance at the time, the issue of sectionalism was soon to reemerge.

On July 14, 1832, Congress approved a new tariff act which President Jackson and its author, Representative John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts, believed would appease the anti-protectionist South. Although their expectations were not totally unfounded, the South still disliked the tariff. South Carolina in particular resented the tariff, which it blamed for its economic depression.

That November, a special State convention meeting in Columbia, South Carolina, adopted an Ordinance of Nullification, which declared the Tariff Acts of 1828 and 1832 null and void in the State, effective February 1, 1833, and also declared the right to secede from the Union if the authority of the State should be challenged by the use of force on the part of the Federal Government. South Carolina in turn passed laws to enforce the ordinance. President Jackson was both conciliatory and firm. He called for a substantial reduction of tariff duties in his annual message two weeks later, but rejected nullification and secession and warned that "disunion by armed force is treason." On January 16, he asked Congress for the power to enforce the tariff law in the face of South Carolina's nullification ordinance. Jackson was given that power when Congress approved the "Force Bill" of March 2. The same day a compromise tariff bill introduced by Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky, which was devised after consultation with Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina and others, was finally approved.

The Senate the following July ratified a treaty which resolved many of the major diplomatic difficulties between the United States and France. This document addressed both the claims against the French government by U.S. citizens, dating back to the Napoleonic Wars, and French counterclaims based on alleged U.S. violations of a commercial clause in the Louisiana Purchase.

Also during the Twenty-second Congress a bill was approved renewing the charter of the Bank of the United States for another fifteen years. Although the bill met most of President Jackson's previous criticisms, he nevertheless vetoed it on July 10 in a powerful message denouncing the Bank as unconstitutional, undemocratic, unsound, and un-American. With his veto, Jackson provided the major issue of the Presidential campaign that fall.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Treaty Providing for the Final Settlement of Napoleonic Wars Spoliation Claims. Provided that France would pay 25,000,000 francs and the United States 1,500,000 francs for spoiliations committed against the subjects of each Nation during the Napoleonic wars. Concluded July 4, 1831. Approved by the Senate July 27, 1832. (8 Stat. 430-433)

Tariff Act of 1832. Amended tariff law by lowering duties on many imported goods to a level slightly below that required by Tariff of 1824. Approved July 14, 1832. (4 Stat. 583-594)

"Compromise Tariff" Bill. Amended tariff law by adding many imported items to the free list and provided for gradual reduction of duties above 20 percent until 1842 when all duties would be 20 percent. Approved March 2, 1833. (4 Stat. 629-631)

Force Bill. Authorized the President to use the army and the navy, if necessary, in the execution of revenue laws and in the collection of customs duties. Approved March 2, 1833. (4 Stat. 632-635)

TWENTY-THIRD AND TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESSES
December 2, 1833-March 3, 1835
December 7, 1835-March 3, 1837
(Second Administration of Andrew Jackson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Regarding his reelection in 1832 as a mandate for removal of Government funds from the Bank of the United States, Andrew Jackson in 1833 ordered that these funds be deposited in a number of State banks, popularly called "pet banks." On December 11 the Senate, by a vote of 23 to 18, called upon Jackson to submit a copy of a paper pertaining to the bank question which he had read to his Cabinet. When Jackson refused the request on the grounds that it was an unconstitutional encroachment on the executive, Henry Clay on December 26, introduced two resolutions of censure in the Senate. Although both resolutions were approved by the Senate the following March, within three years Jackson was successful in having them expunged from the Senate journal.

Late in June 1836, Congress approved the Deposit Act, which required the Secretary of the Treasury to designate as a place of public deposit at least one bank in each State and territory. In addition, beginning on January 1, 1837, all surplus revenues over \$5,000,000 had to be distributed as a loan among the States in proportion to their population.

Meanwhile, legislation establishing a Department of Indian Affairs within the War Department was signed into law June 30, 1834. Turning to the growing demands placed upon the Supreme Court, Congress in March 1837 increased the number of Supreme Court Justices from 7 to 9.

MAJOR ACTS

Department of Indian Affairs. Provided for the organization of the Department of Indian Affairs within the Department of War. Approved June 30, 1834. (4 Stat. 735-738)

Deposit Act. Required the Secretary of the Treasury to designate at least one bank in each State and territory as a place of public deposit of U.S. funds. Also provided for the distribution of surplus revenue in excess of \$5 million among the States, in proportion to their representation in the Senate and House of Representatives, as a loan subject to recall by the Secretary of the Treasury. Approved June 23, 1836. (5 Stat. 52-56)

Enlargement of the Supreme Court. Increased the number of Supreme Court Justices from 7 to 9. Approved March 3, 1837. (5 Stat. 176-178)

TWENTY-FIFTH AND TWENTY-SIXTH CONGRESSES

September 4, 1837-March 3, 1839

December 2, 1839-March 3, 1841

(Administration of Martin Van Buren)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By 1837, the four-year battle between President Jackson and the supporters of the National Bank had left the United States on the verge of financial anarchy, as both the number of banks and banknotes continued to increase. Adding to the Nation's economic woes was the speculation and inflation which accompanied the vast internal improvements--principally roads and canals--begun by States and private companies during this period.

To combat inflation, Secretary of the Treasury Levi Woodbury issued the Specie Circular of July 11, 1836, providing for the future acceptance by the Government of nothing but gold, silver, and Virginia land scrip in payment for the purchase of public land. The Circular resulted in draining the State banks of specie and the Western real estate market collapsed. By March 1837 there was a full-scale financial panic and by the end of the year 618 banks failed. The ensuing depression lasted for the next seven years. Congress, hoping to ease the financial distress which faced the Nation, authorized \$10 million in Treasury notes in October.

As a result of the Panic of 1837, President Van Buren called a special session of Congress which convened on September 4, 1837. The following day Van Buren sent it a message proposing, among other financial measures, the withdrawal of Government funds from the "pet banks," where President Jackson had deposited them in 1833, and placing them instead in Federal subtreasuries. Although Congress did not accede to Van Buren's wishes immediately, a new Independent Treasury Act was approved and became law on July 4, 1840.

MAJOR ACTS

Treasury Note Issue of 1837. Authorized \$10,000,000 in Treasury notes to relieve the national financial crisis. Approved October 12, 1837 (5 Stat. 201-204)

First Independent Treasury Act. Established Federal depositories independent of State banks and private business, entrusted the Government with the exclusive care of its own funds, and required the progressive enforcement of the legal tender clause. All Government payments and disbursements were to be made in hard money after June 30, 1843. Subtreasuries were established at New York, Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, New Orleans, Washington, and Charleston. Approved July 4, 1840. (5 Stat. 385-392)

TWENTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
May 31, 1841-March 3, 1843
(Administration of John Tyler)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During the Presidential campaign of 1840, the Independent Treasury Act came under attack by the Whig party as an economic experiment associated with the financial disasters of the Van Buren Administration. Repeal of the Act was a major promise of the Whig campaign to elect William Henry Harrison President. When the Whigs came into control of the National Government in 1841, repeal was quickly effected by a special session of Congress.

Hopes of future Whig victories, however, were quickly tempered. Only a month after taking office, President Harrison died of pneumonia, and John Tyler became the first Vice President to succeed to the Presidency. In September 1841, the second of Tyler's vetoes of congressional proposals providing for the establishment of a national bank led to the resignation of all of the members of Tyler's cabinet except Secretary of State Daniel Webster.

In 1842, the struggle for control of the Whig Party between President Tyler and party leader Senator Henry Clay overshadowed all else. Four more vetoes by Tyler in 1842, which the Whigs were unable to override, demonstrated both Tyler's independence and the failure of Clay's tactics. Ultimately, Clay resigned from the Senate, and Congress approved versions of bank and tariff statutes favored by the President.

On August 20, 1842, the Senate ratified the Webster-Ashburton Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, which provided for settlement of the northeast boundary of the United States.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Repeal of the Independent Treasury Act. Ordered the removal of all Government funds from the depositories created by order of the Independent Treasury Act of 1840. Approved August 13, 1841. (5 Stat. 439-440)

Tariff of 1842. Restored duties to the higher levels effective in 1832, and simultaneously ended the distribution of revenues. Approved August 30, 1842. (5 Stat. 548-567)

Webster-Ashburton Treaty. Defined the boundary between Maine and Canada and settled minor boundary disputes with the British provinces over the northeast boundary of the United States. Concluded August 9, 1842. Approved by the Senate August 20, 1842. (8 Stat. 572-577)

TWENTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS
December 4, 1843-March 3, 1845
(Administration of John Tyler)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Once the Tyler Administration was able to establish amicable relations with Great Britain, it was free to consider the possibility of annexing Texas. Although Mexican President Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana declared that the United States faced war if it attempted to annex Texas, and President Sam Houston of Texas was less than enthusiastic about relinquishing independence, the President and several other administration officials favored such a course. After Secretary of State John C. Calhoun concluded a treaty of annexation with the Republic of Texas on April 12, 1844, and the Senate rejected it on June 6, 1844, virtually every political figure in the United States had something to say about the issue.

Former President Andrew Jackson and a number of pro-slavery politicians come out for annexation. Henry Clay (the Whig Presidential candidate in 1844), Martin Van Buren, and Thomas Hart Benton all denounced the treaty on the grounds that it would lead to war with Mexico, which still claimed Texas. Also, many Northerners opposed annexation because they viewed it as a Southern plot to spread slavery, a view strengthened by an indiscrete statement by Calhoun. After the Senate rejected the treaty by a vote of 35 to 16 on June 8, President Tyler urged Congress to vote Texas into the Union by a simple majority, thereby obviating the necessity of a two-thirds Senate vote required for ratification. On March 1, 1845, three days before the Presidential mantle was passed to James K. Polk, an equally enthusiastic supporter, Tyler signed the joint resolution of Congress providing for the annexation. It marked the first time that a joint resolution had been used to approve the acquisition of territory or acceptance of territory.

Congress also enacted during the Twentieth Congress a law establishing the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November as the uniform election day for Presidential electors.

MAJOR ACTS

Establishment of Uniform Election Day for Presidential Electors.
Named the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November as election day for Presidential electors. Approved January 23, 1845. (5 Stat. 721)

Texas Annexation Resolution. Declared the consent of Congress for the establishment of Texas as a State, and for its admission to the Union. Approved March 1, 1845. (5 Stat. 797-798)

TWENTY-NINTH CONGRESS
December 1, 1845-March 3, 1847
(Administration of James K. Polk)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Within less than a week after Congress approved the Texas annexation resolution, the Mexican Government broke off diplomatic relations with the United States. As tension continued to build over Texas, President Polk was confronted on the North by Great Britain over the Oregon country. In Polk's first annual message that December, he reaffirmed the Monroe Doctrine, opposing any European colonization of North America and any European attempts to maintain a balance of power there. He also called for the end to joint occupation of Oregon, tariff revision, and an independent treasury system.

Six months later, on May 13, 1846, Polk signed a declaration of war with Mexico. In June, a treaty finally terminating the dispute between the United States and Great Britain concerning Oregon was approved by the Senate.

In July 1846, Congress approved the Walker Tariff Act, which abandoned all specific rates and relied exclusively upon ad valorem duties. Within a week Polk was to see another of his legislative initiatives approved with the reestablishment of an independent treasury. Just before the Twenty-ninth Congress adjourned, it authorized the issuance of the first postage stamps.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Declaration of War With Mexico. Declared that the war was begun by Mexico, appropriated \$10 million to conclude the war, and empowered the President to use the army and navy. Approved May 13, 1846. (9 Stat. 9-10)

Oregon Treaty. Established the 49th parallel as the boundary line between U.S. and British possessions west of the Rocky Mountains and mutual access rights to certain waterways in the areas in question. Concluded June 15, 1846. Approved by the Senate June 18, 1846. (9 Stat. 869-870)

Walker Tariff Act. Reduced the duties on imports to about the rate of the Compromise tariff of 1833. Approved July 30, 1846. (9 Stat. 42-49)

Independent Treasury Act. Established subtreasuries for the deposit of Government money, and stipulated that all payments made to and by the Government must be in gold, silver, or Treasury notes. Approved August 6, 1846. (9 Stat. 59-66)

Postage Stamp Act. Authorized use of adhesive postage stamps in the United States for the first time. Approved March 3, 1847. (9 Stat. 201)

THIRTIETH CONGRESS
December 6, 1847-March 3, 1849
(Administration of James K. Polk)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On February 2, 1848, just nine days after gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill, in what was still a Mexican province, U.S. commissioner Nicholas P. Trist and the Mexican commissioners sign a treaty in the village of Guadalupe Hidalgo, near Mexico City. Besides ending the war, this document provided for the cession of Texas, New Mexico, and California to the United States. Included within this area, comparable to the Louisiana Purchase, are the present States of Texas, California, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah; most of Arizona, the Oklahoma panhandle; most of Colorado; and southwestern Wyoming. The Senate ratified the treaty in March.

That June the Senate ratified a treaty with New Granada (Columbia) which granted to the United States the right of free passage across the Isthmus of Panama.

In August, a bill organizing Oregon as a territory without slavery became law. Among the various bills signed by Polk during his final hours as President was legislation providing for the creation of a Department of the Interior.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo. Terminated the war with Mexico and provided for Mexico to relinquish all claims to Texas north of the Rio Grande and ceded New Mexico and California to the United States. In return, the U.S. agreed to pay \$15 million and assume the responsibility for \$3,250,000 in adjusted claims of American citizens against the Mexican government. Concluded February 2, 1848. Approved by the Senate, with amendments, March 10, 1848 (9 Stat. 922-943)

Treaty With New Granada. Granted to the United States a right of way across the Isthmus of Panama. In return, the United States guaranteed the neutrality of the Isthmus and the sovereignty of New Granada over it. Concluded December 12, 1846. Approved by the Senate June 3, 1848. (9 Stat. 881-901)

Oregon Bill. Established a territorial Government for Oregon in which slavery would be prohibited. Approved August 14, 1848. (9 Stat. 323-331)

Department of the Interior. Established the Department of the Interior (originally called the Home Department) with responsibility for matters involving the census, Indians, public lands, and patents. Approved March 3, 1849. (9 Stat. 395-397)

THIRTY-FIRST AND THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESSES

December 3, 1849-March 3, 1851

December 1, 1851-March 3, 1853

(Administration of Zachary Taylor)

(Administration of Millard Fillmore)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

With the acquisition of the Oregon Territory and the Mexican Cession, sectional conflict intensified. The North demanded that slavery be barred in America's new western holdings. The South insisted on the right to take it there. From 1848 to 1861 this dispute was to dominate the national political scene. Early in 1850, Henry Clay returned to the Senate and offered a series of eight compromise resolutions in an attempt to resolve the basic disputes between the North and the South. Subsequently, Clay's resolutions were incorporated into an "Omnibus bill" pertaining to the West and another bill prohibiting slavery in the District of Columbia.

After Northern and Southern opponents of these compromises blocked the Omnibus Bill, Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois divided it into four separate bills, each of which attracted a differently composed majority. Enactment of these bills, along with one ending slave trade in the District of Columbia, were signed into law by President Millard Fillmore in September and collectively were known as the "Compromise of 1850." The 1852 Presidential election can be seen as another forum in which national sentiments continued for the moment to exert enough influence to cause sectionalists to continue to support the national political party of their choice, however provisional that support.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State John M. Clayton and British Minister Sir Henry Bulwer signed a treaty in Washington on April 19, 1850, delineating the role of the two countries in Central America. The treaty provided that neither nation would exclusively control or fortify a Central American canal.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. Provided for a joint protectorate of the United States and Great Britain over the proposed canal to be built across Central America, neither government to obtain exclusive control of the canal, or "occupy, or fortify, or colonize, or assume, or exercise any dominion" over any part of Central America. The two governments also agreed to keep the canal open to all nations. Concluded April 19, 1850. Approved by the Senate May 22, 1850. (9 Stat. 995-998)

Texas and New Mexico Act. Established the Texas boundaries and authorized a payment of \$10,000,000 compensation to Texas for relinquishing its claims to New Mexico. Provided that New Mexico would be admitted to the Union with or without slavery according to its constitution upon admission to the Union. Approved September 9, 1850. (9 Stat. 446-452)

Admission of California as a Free State. Provided for the admission of California to the Union as a free State. Approved September 9, 1850. (9 Stat. 452-453)

Utah Act. Established the territorial boundaries of Utah and provided that it was to be a free or slave State according to the constitution it adopted upon admission to the Union. Approved September 9, 1850. (9 Stat. 453-458)

Fugitive Slave Act. Amended the 1793 Fugitive Slave Act by removing fugitive slave cases from Federal jurisdiction. Provided for the appointment of special Federal commissioners to conduct hearings and issue warrants of arrest and certificates of return. Imposed a fine and imprisonment on any person harboring a fugitive slave or aiding his escape. Denied fugitive slaves the right of jury trial or the right to testify in their own behalf. Approved September 18, 1850. (9 Stat. 462-465)

District of Columbia Slave-Trade Act. Abolished the slave trade in the District of Columbia after January 1, 1851. Approved September 20, 1850. (9 Stat. 467-468)

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS
December 5, 1853-March 3, 1855
(Administration of Franklin Pierce)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Seeking trade with Japan, which had not traded with western countries for centuries, President Fillmore in late November 1852 dispatched a U.S. naval party headed by Commodore Matthew C. Perry to visit the Far East. Some fifteen months later, on March 31, 1854, the United States was able to secure a treaty of peace, friendship, and commerce with the government of Japan. A reciprocity treaty was signed with the Canadians the following June.

By early 1854, it was clear that the Compromise of 1850 had not ended sectionalism. A major technological advance in the making when Franklin Pierce took office that March was the construction of a transcontinental railroad. There were several routes under consideration at the time, one of which--favored by Southern legislators--extended into Mexican territory. A treaty with Mexico, arranged by U.S. Minister James Gadsden on December 30, 1853, led to the acquisition of a rectangular, 29,640 square mile strip of territory in the Messilla Valley south of the Gila River (which is today lower Arizona and New Mexico) for \$10 million.

When the Gadsden Purchase was voted upon by the Senate on April 25, twelve Northerners rejected the treaty either because they were opposed to the addition of a potential southern territory and/or a southern route for the projected transcontinental railroad. With this treaty, which barely gained the required two-thirds approval of the Senate in April 1854, the expansion of the United States into adjoining territories ended.

Meanwhile, a far more emotional debate meanwhile ensued on January 23, 1854, after Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, chairman of the Committee on Territories, introduced a bill aimed at organizing the country west of the Missouri River and north of 36° 30' into the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. Under this bill, each territorial government would decide whether to permit or prohibit slavery. On May 30, the Kansas-Nebraska Act was signed by President Franklin Pierce, and realignment of national political parties began within weeks, notably with the creation of the Republican Party on an anti-slavery platform.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Gadsden Purchase Treaty. Arranged for the ceding to the United States by Mexico of a strip of 29,640 square mile of desert land south of the Gila River for \$10,000,000. Concluded December 30, 1853. Approved by the Senate April 25, 1854. (18 Stat. 503-506)

Kansas-Nebraska Act. Repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820, so that the citizens in the newly created territories of Kansas and Nebraska would themselves determine whether they would be slave or free upon entering the Union. All cases involving slavery could now be appealed to the territorial courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. Approved May 30, 1854. (10 Stat. 277-290)

Treaty of Kanagawa. Opened the Japanese ports of Simoda and Hakodade to U.S. trade, made provisions for ships and seamen of the U.S. shipwrecked in Japan, and allowed a U.S. agent to remain at Simoda. Concluded March 31, 1854. Approved by the Senate July 15, 1854. (18 Stat. 446-449)

Canadian Reciprocity Treaty. Opened the United States markets to Canadian agricultural products, timber, and fish, and in return American fishermen received new fishing privileges along the inlets of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and several adjacent small islands. Concluded June 5, 1854. Approved by the Senate August 2, 1854. (18 Stat. 329-333) Abrogated by the United States March 17, 1866.

Citizenship Act of 1855. Granted right of citizenship to children of citizens born out of the limits of jurisdiction of the United States. Approved February 10, 1855. (10 Stat. 604)

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS
December 3, 1855-March 3, 1857
(Administration of Franklin Pierce)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Early in 1855, the Nebraska Territory proceeded in a peaceful and orderly fashion to establish a free-soil Government under acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming, who convened the first legislature in Omaha. The election of the territorial assembly in Kansas, however, brought on a bitter struggle between proslavery and free-soil factions. Civil strife at once broke out in Kansas between anti-slavery and pro-slavery settlers. During 1856, "Bleeding Kansas" remained the dominant domestic issue in America as those forces supporting and those attacking slavery continued to contend for an advantage.

On August 1, 1856, the House refused to seat either pro-slavery or Free State territorial delegates from Kansas. Later in August, House Republicans were unsuccessful in an attempt to alter the Pierce Administration's Kansas policy by preventing the further use of Federal troops in aiding the pro-slavery legislature in Kansas. Meanwhile, the raids between the two elements continued, with an estimated 200 killed and \$2,000,000 in property being destroyed between November 1855 and December 1856.

MAJOR ACTS

Army Appropriations Bill of 1856. Attracted attention as the result of a Republican rider attached August 18, 1856, forbidding the use of Federal troops in support of pro-slavery activities of the Kansas State legislature. The rider was defeated and the bill enacted without its provisions. Approved August 30, 1856. (11 Stat. 147-150)

Tariff of 1857. Modified the Tariff Act of 1846, by reducing the duties on many imported goods, in response to depressed economic conditions resulting from the Panic of 1857. Approved March 3, 1857. (11 Stat. 192-195)

THIRTY-FIFTH AND THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESSES
December 7, 1857-March 3, 1859
December 5, 1859-March 3, 1861
(Administration of James Buchanan)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In November 1857, pro-slavery Kansas settlers met at the territorial capital of Lecompton and drew up a State constitution establishing slavery on a permanent basis. But, instead of submitting the constitution as a whole to the voters, it gave them a choice between the constitution with, or without, slavery; even if they picked the latter, it would remain legal to own slaves already in Kansas. Denouncing it as a fraud, the anti-slavery settlers, who comprised the overwhelming majority, refused to participate in the referendum, and as a result the Lecompton Constitution was adopted, 6,226 to 529 (with a large number of the yeas widely believed to be fraudulent). Senator Stephen A. Douglas was outraged by what he considered a mockery of popular sovereignty and urged Congress to reject admission of Kansas as a State under the Lecompton Constitution.

The Kansas legislature in turn called for an election on January 4, 1858, at which time the whole constitution was submitted. Pro-slavery settlers did not participate and the document was rejected, 10,226 to 162. Against the advice of some of his friends, President James Buchanan nevertheless recommended on February 2 that Kansas be admitted under it.

When a deadlock resulted between the House and the Senate that April, Representative William H. English, an anti-Lecompton Democrat from Indiana, proposed a bill which would provide for another popular vote on the Lecompton Constitution. If the Constitution were approved and slavery accepted, land grants and revenues would be made available to Kansas along with statehood. Otherwise statehood would be deferred until Kansas had a population of 93,420. This compromise was enacted by both Houses of Congress on April 30, 1858. Kansans, however, rejected the pro-slavery Lecompton Constitution on August 2, by a vote of 11,812 to 1,926.

As the Democrats gathered at their national convention in Charleston, South Carolina, in April 1859, it was clearly evident that the disruptive force of sectionalism was about to destroy the last remaining national political organization in the United States. Most of the Southern delegates came with the determination to compel the party to adopt a platform providing for Federal protection of slavery in the territories. When the convention adopted a platform vaguely endorsing popular sovereignty and proposed that all questions involving slavery in the territories should be left up to

the Supreme Court, delegates from eight Southern States walked out thereby splitting the Democratic Party, and virtually assured a Republican victory in November.

Anticipating the outcome of the Presidential election of 1860, the South Carolina legislature remained in session until the results were known and then called a State convention. On December 20, that convention, without a dissenting vote, passed an ordinance of secession.

MAJOR ACTS

English Bill. Offered immediate admission of Kansas to the Union, plus a grant of 4 million acres of public land and 5 percent of the net proceeds from about 2 million acres to be sold by the Government after its admission as a State, if the Lecompton Constitution was to be accepted by the voters. If rejected, the Territory would not be admitted to the Union as a State until its population exceeded (93,400) that was required for a member of the House of Representatives. Approved May 4, 1858. (11 Stat. 269-272)

Morrill Tariff Act of 1861. Reversed the quasi-free trade policy established by the Walker Tariff of 1846 and began a rapid trend towards protectionism. Substituted specific duties for ad valorem duties, raised duties generally from 15 to 28 percent, and greatly increased the rates on irons and woolens. Approved March 2, 1861. (12 Stat. 178-198)

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
July 4, 1861-March 3, 1863
(First Administration of Abraham Lincoln)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By early June 1861, ten additional slave States had followed South Carolina into of secession, and a convention of seceding States met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form a new government, the Confederate States of America.

Although compromises continued to be proposed, neither the North nor the South really believed that they could agree to any further modification of their principles. President Abraham Lincoln insisted in his inaugural address on March 4, 1861, that the Union was older than the Constitution, no State could of its own volition leave the Union, the ordinances of secession were illegal, and acts of violence to support secession were insurrectionary or revolutionary. If force were necessary to preserve the Union, he would employ it. Jefferson Davis held that the Southern States, as sovereign States, had the right to self-determination. After the Confederates bombarded Fort Sumter on April 12-13, reconciliation was no longer possible.

During the first eight weeks of the Civil War, before Congress convened on July 4, 1861, Lincoln proclaimed that a state of insurrection existed, blockaded Southern ports, enlarged the navy and the regular army, and removed funds from the Federal Treasury to cover initial war expenses, all without congressional authorization.

Once Congress assembled, it quickly moved to support the measures Lincoln had already taken. On July 17, Congress passed an act authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow \$250,000,000 during the next twelve months. Two laws subsequently passed, the first Federal Income Tax and the Legal Tender Act (permitting the printing of large amounts of paper currency). They provided additional funds for the financing of the Union war effort. Other wartime legislation of a financial nature included the Tariff Act of July 1862, and the National Bank Act of February 1863.

In approving the First Confiscation Act of August 1861, Congress freed those slaves who had been used by the Confederates either in labor or arms. Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which was presented to his Cabinet in September 1862, and the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1863 established the emancipation of slaves of rebels as a major Presidential war aim. With the Second Confiscation Act, approved in July 1862, Congress set forth its own anti-slavery sentiments.

Early in March 1863, Congress approved acts which authorized the President during the War to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in any case where he felt it necessary, and a conscription which was to apply to all males between the ages of 20 and 45.

Other major pieces of legislation enacted by the Thirty-seventh Congress, having nothing to do with the fighting or financing of the war or with the destruction of slavery, included the Homestead Act of May 1862, the Morrill Land-Grant College Act, the Pacific Railroad Act, and the first of two antipolygamy laws, all of which were approved early in July 1862. In addition, Congress established the Department of Agriculture and the National Academy of Sciences in May 1862 and March 1863, respectively.

MAJOR ACTS

First Federal Income Tax. Instituted a direct tax of \$20 million on real estate apportioned among the various States, imposed customs and duties on certain classes of imports, and inaugurated the first national income tax, which imposed a 3 percent tax on annual incomes in excess of \$800. Approved August 5, 1861. (12 Stat. 292-313)

First Slave Confiscation Act. Provided for the emancipation of slaves employed in arms or labor against the Government of the U.S. Approved August 6, 1861. (12 Stat. 319)

Legal Tender Act. Authorized the issuance of \$150 million in paper currency known as "greenbacks" as legal tender for the payment of debts. Approved February 25, 1862. (12 Stat. 345-348) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Hepburn v. Griswold, 8 Wall. (75 U.S.) 603 (1870).

Department of Agriculture. Established the Department of Agriculture to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture. Provided for the appointment of a Commissioner of Agriculture and specified his duties. Department obtained Cabinet status in 1889. Approved May 15, 1862. (12 Stat. 387-388)

Homestead Act. Promoted western agricultural expansion by providing a maximum of 160 acres of public lands, at \$1.25 an acre, to any citizen over 21 years of age, or to the head of a family, who occupied and improved the land for five continuous years. Approved May 20, 1862. (12 Stat. 392-394)

Pacific Railroad Act. Authorized the Union Pacific Railroad to build westward from the 100th meridian across the Rocky Mountains and authorized for the Central Pacific to proceed eastward across the Sierra Nevadas, with the connection to be made at the California-Nevada border. Granted to each railroad a 400-foot wide right of way and five alternate sections of land on each side of line for every mile of track laid. Provided for a U.S. first mortgage loan to railroad companies of \$10,000 in U.S. 6 percent bonds for every mile of track built on the plains, \$32,000 a mile in hilly terrain, and \$48,000 in the mountains. Approved July 1, 1862. (12 Stat. 489-498)

First Antipolygamy Act. Provided for the punishment of any person who practiced polygamy in the territories of the United States, or any other place over which the United States had exclusive jurisdiction. It further disapproved and annulled certain acts of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah. Approved July 1, 1862. (12 Stat. 501-502)

Morrill Land-Grant College Act. Granted each loyal State 30,000 acres of the public domain for each of its Senators and Representatives then serving, the proceeds of the sale of which were to be invested by the States in bonds for the purpose of endowing at least one college which would have as its primary function the teaching of "agricultural and mechanical arts." None of the money was to be used to erect buildings, the States were obligated to replace any money lost, and the institutions were to provide instruction in military tactics--the basis of the future ROTC program. No more than one million acres of land grants could be located in any one State. Approved July 2, 1862. (12 Stat. 503-505)

Tariff Act of 1862. Dramatically raised the rates of the Morrill Tariff Act of 1861 to offset new internal revenue taxes. Approved July 14, 1862. (12 Stat. 543-561)

Second Slave Confiscation Act. Declared free the slaves of all persons engaged in the rebellion, authorized the Government to employ Negroes to engage in combat against the rebellion, to confiscate rebel property, and to colonize in some "tropical country" outside the United States those liberated slaves who wished to emigrate. Approved July 17, 1862. (12 Stat. 589-592)

National Bank Act. Established a National banking system, the member banks of which were required to invest one-third of their capital in U.S. securities. These securities could then be used as the basis for issuing national bank notes as currency to the public. Approved February 25, 1863. (12 Stat. 665-682)

Conscription Act. Established a national system for drafting all able-bodied males between the ages of 20 and 45 years of age, with certain exceptions. Approved March 3, 1863. (12 Stat. 731-737)

Habeas Corpus Act. Gave congressional sanction to the actions taken by President Lincoln in April 1861, by authorizing during the war the suspension of the privilege of writ of habeas corpus in any case throughout the United States or any part thereof. Approved March 3, 1863. (12 Stat. 755-758) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in The Justices v. Murray, 9 Wall. (76 U.S.) 274 (1870).

National Academy of Sciences Act. Incorporated the National Academy of Sciences and stipulated that the Academy would receive no compensation from the Federal Government. Approved March 3, 1863. (12 Stat. 806-807)

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS
December 7, 1863-March 3, 1865
(First Administration of Abraham Lincoln)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Although the accomplishments of the Thirty-eighth Congress were not nearly as numerous as those of its immediate predecessor, many of its enactments were of far reaching significance. The last of the Morrill Tariff Acts, approved on June 30, 1864, firmly established protection as a policy of the United States. Early in July, Congress placed its stamp of approval on the Northern Pacific Railroad, the construction of which was soon to become part of a railroad building mania that would seize the Nation following the war. Within days, it also enacted an Immigration Act with the principal objective of encouraging additional immigration.

On January 31, 1865, Congress once again turned its attention to the issue of slavery and sent the Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing human servitude, to the States for ratification. Before the end of the year, Congress' recommendation would become the law of the land. The act creating the Freedmen's Bureau in March 1865 sought to provide Federal assistance to tens of thousands of homeless and jobless former slaves in the South and to administer abandoned farm lands in that war-devastated region.

MAJOR ACTS

Morrill Tariff Amendments of 1864. Increased average tariff rate from 37 percent to 47 percent. Approved June 30, 1864. (13 Stat. 202-218)

Northern Pacific Railroad Act. Authorized the Northern Pacific Railroad to build a railroad and telegraph line from Lake Superior to Portland Oregon. Granted to the railroad a 200-foot right of way and twenty alternate sections of land on each side of the line for every mile of track. Approved July 2, 1864. (13 Stat. 365-372)

Immigration Act. Provided for the appointment of the Commissioner of Immigration and the establishment of a United States Emigrant Office in New York under the direction of the Superintendent of Immigration to oversee the interests of all immigrants. Approved July 4, 1864. (13 Stat. 385-387)

Thirteenth Amendment. Abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, "except as a punishment for a crime whereof the party" had been duly convicted, within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. Approved by Congress January 31, 1865.* Ratified by the requisite number of States December 6, 1865. (13 Stat. 774-775) (13 Stat. 567)

Freedmen's Bureau. Created the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands to provide food, fuel, and land for "refugees and freedmen from rebel States." Approved March 3, 1865. (13 Stat. 507-509)

* The amendment appears officially in the Statutes at Large under the date February 1, 1865.

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS
December 4, 1865-March 3, 1867
(Administration of Andrew Johnson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

With the assassination of Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865, Andrew Johnson assumed the Presidency and with it the power to oversee the postwar Reconstruction of the South. Johnson sought a lenient and speedy return of the Southern States to the Union, and was willing to let the Negroes' former masters determine their fate. A majority in Congress, however, sought to "reconstruct" the South by establishing legal equality for the Negro.

Reconstruction was further complicated when Southern States began to pass laws defining the status of Negroes. These new "black codes" revealed Southern determination to keep Negroes in separate and inferior positions. Attempting also to protect Negroes against terrorism, Congress overrode a Presidential veto and approved the Civil Rights Act of April 9, 1866, which sought to grant freed slaves the protection of Federal citizenship, thus securing for them the same rights and protection as whites regardless of local statutes. Further, it authorized the use of Federal troops to enforce its privileges and penalties. Heartened by their success, Congress on July 16 overrode a second Presidential veto, to extend the Freedmen's Bureau for two more years.

When the Civil Rights Act of 1866 was criticized as unconstitutional, Congress on June 16, 1866, passed the 14th amendment to establish the constitutionality of the Act. By Spring 1867, one of the fiercest struggles between the White House and Capitol Hill in our Nation's history was well underway. On March 2, 1867, in its final hours and after long debate, the outgoing Thirty-ninth Congress approved a bill "to provide for the more efficient Government of the Rebel States." This Reconstruction Act returned the South, two years after the war, to military rule. Johnson's veto, which was not unexpected, condemned the bill as "utterly destructive" to the "principles of liberty." The veto was promptly overridden.

Even after this impressive victory, congressional leaders feared that Johnson might use his authority as commander-in-chief to subvert their intentions. To trim the President's power, the Army Appropriations Act was amended to require Johnson to issue all military orders through General of the Army Ulysses S. Grant; this law virtually deprived him of command of the Army. Also, on March 2, Congress passed, over Johnson's veto, the Tenure of Office Act, which made it an impeachable offense for him to remove appointed office-holders without first consulting the Senate.

MAJOR ACTS

Civil Rights Act. Granted citizenship to all persons born in the United States; gave all citizens (except Indians) the same civil rights; and provided for the punishment of persons who prevented the free exercise of these rights. Approved April 9, 1866. (14 Stat. 27-30)

Fourteenth Amendment. Declared that all persons born or naturalized in the United States were citizens, and that any State which withheld the vote of any male over 21 would be denied a proportionate representation in Congress. Disqualified former officeholders who aided the Confederacy from holding either a Federal or State office (except in those instances when this disability was removed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses). Secured the validity of the Union debt and repudiated the rebel war debts as illegal and void. Also empowered Congress to enforce the various provisions of the amendment through appropriate legislation. Approved by Congress June 16, 1866. Ratified by requisite number of States July 9, 1866. (14 Stat. 358-359)

New Freedmen's Bureau Act. Authorized continuation of the Freedmen's Bureau for an additional two years. Approved July 16, 1866. (14 Stat. 173-177)

First Reconstruction Act. Divided the States of the former Confederacy (except for Tennessee) into five military districts. Each district was to be commanded by a general who was authorized to employ at his discretion military courts and forces to maintain law and order. The ten States were to be readmitted to the Union after they called constitutional conventions, elected by universal manhood suffrage, which would established State governments guaranteeing Negro suffrage and which would ratify the Fourteenth amendment. Those persons disqualified under the proposed Fourteenth amendment were excluded from voting for and serving in the State conventions. Congress reserved to itself the power to review each case, end military rule, and seat Representatives. Approved March 2, 1867. (14 Stat. 428-430)

Tenure of Office Act. Prohibited the President from removing civil officials appointed by and with the advice of the Senate without first obtaining Senatorial approval. Approved March 2, 1867. (14 Stat. 430-432)

Command of the Army Act. Required that the President and the Secretary of the War issue all military orders through the General of the Army. Also disbanded the Southern State militias. (Attached as an amendment to the Army Appropriation Bill.) Approved March 2, 1867. (14 Stat. 486-487)

FORTIETH CONGRESS
March 4, 1867-March 3, 1869
(Administration of Andrew Johnson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Even greater confrontations between the Congress and the President occurred during the Fortieth Congress. Usurping a Presidential power, Congress called itself into special session in March. Once in session, acting on the assumption that no lawful government existed in ten Southern States, Congress approved a series of controls to increase congressional power and promote congressional Reconstruction. These imposed military force to monitor civil, judicial, and police powers in the South. Negroes were given the right to vote.

In February 1868, popular sentiment in the North and Radical Republican resentment in the House of Representatives led to the Covode Resolution to impeach the President. On March 2 and 3, the House adopted eleven articles of impeachment--nine involving Johnson's alleged plot to violate the Tenure of Office Act, the tenth his "ridiculous harangues" in speeches against Congress, and the eleventh an omnibus article embracing all the charges. The longest impeachment trial in the Nation's history followed in the Senate, extending from March 30 to May 26. With 35 Senators voting "guilty" and 19 "not guilty" on May 16 and by an identical vote on May 26 on three separate impeachment articles, Johnson escaped conviction by a single vote (a two-thirds majority being necessary).

Two months later, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina were each readmitted to the Union over President Johnson's veto upon their ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Prompted by the reality that the Fourteenth Amendment had not succeeded in ensuring Negro voting rights in the South, Congress in February 1869 enacted the Fifteenth Amendment, forbidding any State from depriving a citizen of his vote because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Despite the continual tension between the White House and the Congress during the Fortieth Congress, Secretary of State William H. Seward was able, in April 1867, to gain Senate ratification of the Alaskan Purchase Treaty, after convincing 37 of the 39 Senators who voted on the document, of the value of Alaskan natural resources and the strategic gains for United States interests on the Pacific and Arctic Oceans.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Second Reconstruction Act. Required Federal military commanders in charge of the five military districts in the South to provide for the registration of all qualified voters and to set dates for holding elections and conventions of those who were subsequently to decide on readmittance into the Union. Approved March 23, 1867. (15 Stat. 2-5)

Alaska Purchase Treaty. Provided for the purchase of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million. Concluded March 30, 1867. Approved by the Senate April 9, 1867. (15 Stat. 539-544)

Third Reconstruction Act. Empowered the commander of each of the five military districts established in the former Confederate States (except Tennessee) with the authority, subject to the disapproval of the General of the Army of the United States, to suspend or remove from office any civil or military official in his district. Also provided each military commander with the power to determine the eligibility of voters if necessary. Approved July 19, 1867. (15 Stat. 14-16)

Fourth Reconstruction Act. Provided that a majority of the votes cast would decide adoption or rejection of the proposed new constitutions in each of the former Confederate States, whereas the provisions of the Second Reconstruction required a majority of the registered voters. Approved March 11, 1868. (15 Stat. 41)

Omnibus Act. Provided for the readmission to the Union of the late Confederate States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina, upon ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment. Approved June 22, 1868, and June 25, 1868. (15 Stat. 72-74)

Fifteenth Amendment. Forbade any State in the Union from depriving a citizen of his vote because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. It also required that the three Southern States still outside the Union (Texas, Mississippi, and Virginia) ratify the Amendment as a condition for readmission. Approved February 27, 1869. Ratified by requisite number of States February 3, 1870. (15 Stat. 346)

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS
March 4, 1869-March 3, 1871
(First Administration of Ulysses S. Grant)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Soon after the Forty-first Congress convened in March 1869, it passed the Public Credit Act to provide for the payment in gold of some \$450,000 to those individuals who had purchased Federal bonds under the Legal Tender Act of February 25, 1862. With this Act the Grant Administration was able to fulfill a Republican campaign pledge of the previous fall.

Congress faced a far more difficult task as it sought during the next two years to blunt the terrorist activities of the Ku Klux Klan and similar organizations directed against Negroes, carpetbaggers, and scalawags in the South. In response, Congress enacted a series of Force Acts designed to protect Southern Negro civil and political rights. The first two of these acts, approved in May 1870 and February 1871, were specifically aimed at disciplining Southerners who continued to flout the 15th Amendment.

Responding to demands for tariff reform, Congress partially reversed a decade long trend toward higher duties under the Morrill Tariff Acts, with the Tariff Act of July 1870.

Spoils politics and corruption within the Federal service aroused enough attention and support by early 1869 that, shortly before his first inauguration Ulysses S. Grant's declared that he supported civil service reform. He followed with a formal request for civil service legislation in his Second Annual Message to Congress, in December 1870. Acceding to the President's request, Congress created a Commission on Civil Service on March 3, 1871. Although the operations of the first Civil Service Commission slowed to virtually nothing after some three years, it was an important forerunner.

MAJOR ACTS

Public Credit Act. Provided for the payment of Government obligations in gold. Approved March 18, 1869. (16 Stat. 1)

First Force Act (First Ku Klux Klan Act). Designed to enforce the right of citizens of the United States to vote in Federal elections it provided heavy penalties for infringement upon the right to vote under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, subjected individuals guilty of interfering with

the civil or political rights of any person to heavy penalties, and placed the enforcement of this law in the hands of the Federal courts, which were authorized to employ U.S. marshals and the regular army. Approved May 31, 1870. (16 Stat. 140-146) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in United States v. Reese, 92 U.S. 214 (1876), Hodges v. United States, 203 U.S. 1 (1906), and James v. Bowman, 190 U.S. 127 (1903).

Establishment of the Justice Department. Created the Department of Justice with the Attorney General as its head. Approved June 22, 1870. (16 Stat. 162-165)

Tariff Act of 1870. Placed some 130 articles, mainly raw materials, on the free list, and reduced rates on other commodities such as coffee, sugar, tea, and wines. Also reduced the internal revenue tax, but continued to protect the products of Eastern mills and factories. Approved July 14, 1870. (16 Stat. 256-272)

Second Force Act (Second Ku Klux Klan Act). Placed control of National elections in both the North and South under Federal control, empowered Federal judges to appoint elections supervisors, and authorized U.S. marshals to employ sufficient deputies to preserve order at polling places. In effect the Act also put local and State elections under Federal supervision, since they were held at the same time. Approved February 28, 1871. (16 Stat. 433-440)

Civil Service Commission. Authorized the President to prescribe rules and regulations that would best promote the efficiency of the civil service of the United States, and employ suitable persons to conduct interviews and establish regulations for those individuals who received civil service appointments. Approved March 3, 1871. (16 Stat. 514-515)

FORTY-SECOND CONGRESS
March 4, 1871-March 3, 1873
(First Administration of Ulysses S. Grant)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On February 24, 1871, the two Senators from Georgia were seated and the South had full representation in Congress for the first time in a decade. Within two months, however, Congress felt the need to pass yet a third--and the broadest--Reconstruction Force Act. By May 1872, a growing desire in the North to end Reconstruction, and the immediate political advantages to be gained from such a decision in upcoming elections, finally prompted a general amnesty for all person disfranchised under the Fourteenth amendment. Under the terms of the Act, all except approximately 600 "rebels" (men who had held high Federal offices prior to the Civil War and had violated their oaths to uphold the Constitution) had all their political rights restored.

That same Spring, President Grant signed the law establishing our first National Park near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River. He also approved the General Mining Act of 1872, much of which remains intact to this day.

Shifting to monetary matters, Congress on February 12, 1873, terminated the coinage of silver, because silver was so scarce its intrinsic value exceeded its face value. In 1876, when abundant silver was discovered in the West, this act became known as "The Crime of '73." Other more immediate concerns affected President Grant personally, as stories of scandal and corruption involving members of his Cabinet and close friends became increasingly commonplace. His public popularity was further eroded when he signed, just before his second inauguration, the "Salary Grab Act," which substantially raised his own salary and those of all Government officials.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Third Force Act (Third Ku Klux Klan Act). Directed the Federal courts to punish specific acts of terrorism with fines and/or imprisonment, barred members of Klan-type societies from serving on juries trying cases under the Act, and authorized the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in areas deemed by him to be in a condition of anarchy and insurrection. Approved April 20, 1871. (17 Stat. 13-15) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in United States v. Harris, 106 U.S. 629 (1883).

Treaty of Washington. Established an international commission at Geneva to arbitrate the claims by the United States against Great Britain for damages done during the Civil War by British-built Confederate raiders. Concluded May 8, 1871. Approved by the Senate May 24, 1871. (17 Stat. 863-877)

Yellowstone National Park Act. Designated a 2 million acre tract of land "lying near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River...as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." Established for the first time the policy of national ownership of superlative resources for the common good and barred commercial use of the park's timber, grass, water power, and minerals. Approved March 1, 1872. (17 Stat. 32-33)

General Mining Act of 1872. Provided that "all valuable mineral deposits in the lands belong to the United States...to be free and open to exploration and purchase by the citizens of the United States. Required that not less than \$100 worth of work be performed on each claim per year. Patents were to be issued for lands containing 'valuable deposits' upon expenditures of \$500 worth of work." Approved May 10, 1872. (17 Stat. 91-96)

Amnesty Act. Removed political and civil disabilities from all except 500 to 600 men who had served as Senators and Representatives in the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Congresses, officers in the judicial, military, and naval service of the United States, heads of Departments, and foreign ministers of the United States. Approved May 22, 1872. (17 Stat. 142)

Tariff Act of 1872. Made a 10 percent across the board reduction on all imported manufactured products. Reduced the duties on salt and coal, and placed some raw materials on the free list. Approved June 6, 1872. (17 Stat. 230-258)

Coinage Act of 1873. Discontinued the coinage of silver dollars except for international trade. Made gold the sole monetary standard for the United States. Approved February 12, 1873. (17 Stat. 424-436)

"Salary Grab Act." Doubled the President's salary from \$25,000 to \$50,000, gave the Vice President, Cabinet members, and Supreme Court Justices \$10,000, and increased congressional pay from \$5,000 to \$7,000. In addition, a retroactive provision had the effect of bestowing on lame duck Congressmen, of whom there were many in this session, a gift of \$5,000 extra. Approved March 3, 1873. (17 Stat. 485-509) Repealed the following January.

FORTY-THIRD CONGRESS
December 1, 1873-March 3, 1875
(Second Administration of Ulysses S. Grant)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During the fall of 1873, the Nation was hit by a major financial panic and then plunged into a severe economic depression. That September the New York Stock Exchange closed its doors for ten days, numerous businesses failed, and railroad construction was curtailed, with some railroads even having to default on their bonds. Amidst these conditions, Congress reconsidered and then repealed passage of the "Salary Grab Act of 1873," which (among other things) had raised the salaries of Members of Congress.

Another casualty of the panic (and years of poor management) occurred with the bankruptcy of the government of the District of Columbia. In June 1874, Congress enacted a measure replacing the territorial Government of the District with a three-man commission which form of government remained in effect for more than 90 years, until 1967.

Also in June 1874, Congress passed a Currency Act fixing the amount of greenbacks (paper money) in circulation. The Specie Resumption Act of the following January, provided for the replacement, "as rapidly as practicable," of greenbacks with gold coin. Provision also was made for reducing the circulating greenback total from \$382 million to \$300 million. (The actual resumption of specie payments was to be carried out under the Hayes administration.)

In response to the protest of black Americans against the denial of equal access to public accommodations and the right to serve on juries, a law was enacted on March 1, 1875, granting all such rights to all Americans.

MAJOR ACTS

Repeal of the "Salary Grab Act." Repealed the "Salary Grab Act" of 1873 with the exception of the increases in the salaries of the President and U.S. Supreme Court Justices. Approved January 20, 1874. (18 Stat. 4)

Reorganization of D.C. Government. Abolished Home Rule in the District of Columbia, replacing it with a government of three commissioners appointed by the President. Approved June 20, 1874. (18 Stat. 116-121)

Specie Resumption Act. Reduced the value of greenbacks in circulation from \$382 million to \$300 million and allowed the resumption of specie payment by January 1, 1879. Approved January 14, 1875. (18 Stat. 296)

Civil Rights Act of 1875. Guaranteed equal rights to all citizens in public accommodations and on public conveyances. The Act also prohibited exclusion of Negroes from jury duty. Approved March 1, 1875. (18 Stat. 335-337) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Civil Rights Cases, 109 U.S. 3 (1883).

Tariff Act of 1875. Reversed the trend of tariff reduction established by the Tariff of 1872, restoring duties to the levels previously established by the Morrill Tariff Act of 1861 and the subsequent increases of 1862, 1864, 1867, and 1869. Approved March 3, 1875. (18 Stat. 469-470)

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS
December 6, 1875-March 3, 1877
(Second Administration of Ulysses S. Grant)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Presidential campaign of 1876 was a struggle of exceptional intensity and bitterness. For the first time in twenty years, the Democrats had a reasonable chance of winning, and they bore down hard on the Nation's economic depression, the Grant Administration's political scandals, and the President's Southern policy. Their opponents countered with "bloody-shirt" oratory, charging that the Democrats were sympathetic to the rebels, and attacked the personal character of their candidate, Samuel J. Tilden.

Early returns before midnight on November 7 indicated that Tilden had been elected. Republican headquarters in New York closed up, and Chairman Zachary Chandler went to bed. Republican Presidential hopeful, Rutherford B. Hayes, admitted his defeat in his diary. By morning Tilden was already assured 184 electoral votes to 165 for Hayes. Not included in the electoral totals, however, were the 20 disputed votes from Oregon, Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina. Tilden need only one of the twenty votes to assure his election, while Hayes had to have them all to win by a bare majority of one vote.

When the contested electoral votes were counted, it was found that the four States had sent two sets of electoral votes (a Republican and Democratic set) for each candidate. The challenge of deciding which returns were authentic and which candidate had won, as provided by the Constitution, was then passed to the Forty-Fourth Congress, where the results were to be counted before a joint session, a critical point since the Republicans controlled the Senate and the Democrats the House. Neither the Constitution nor law, however, was explicit as to exactly who should count the votes.

The solution finally accepted by Congress, late in January 1877, was to refer the disputed returns, if Congress were unable to reach a decision, to an electoral commission created for this purpose, consisting of fifteen members drawn in equal numbers from the Senate, the House, and the Supreme Court. The House selected three Democrats and two Republicans, the Senate selected three Republicans and two Democrats. Two of the Justices selected were Democrats; two were Republicans; and the fifth was to be selected by the four Justices and was tacitly understood that they would choose an independent, Justice David Davis.

Before the commission could meet, however, Davis who had just been elected a U.S. Senator from Illinois deemed himself ineligible and resigned from the Supreme Court. Davis was replaced by Justice Joseph P. Bradley, a moderate Republican. In February, after the differences between the two Houses left the matter unresolved, the Commission proceeded by a vote of 8 to 7 to award all twenty of the disputed votes to Hayes.

MAJOR ACTS

Electoral Commission. Provided for a commission of five Senators, five Representatives, and five Justices of the Supreme Court to judge and decide "as to which is the true and lawful electoral vote" of the States from which there was more than one return in the 1876 disputed electoral votes cast for President and Vice President. Approved January 29, 1877. (19 Stat. 227-229)

FORTY-FIFTH AND FORTY-SIXTH CONGRESSES
October 15, 1877-March 3, 1879
March 18, 1879-March 3, 1881
(Administration of Rutherford B. Hayes)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In April 1877, after twelve years, Reconstruction was brought to an end when President Hayes ordered the remaining Federal troops to be withdrawn from the Southern States. A year later, Congress approved a rider to an Army Appropriation Bill prohibiting the use of troops to execute civil law except where expressly authorized by law.

Despite Republican dilatory tactics in the House and angry filibusters in the Senate, the Democrats during 1879 and 1880 were again able to attach riders to the Administration's appropriation bills forbidding the Federal Government from using money, troops, or marshals to police the Southern polls. President Hayes, however, vetoed each of these bills attacking the notion that the House had the right "to withhold appropriations upon which the existence of the Government may depend unless the Senate and the President shall give their assent to any legislation which the House may see fit to attach to appropriation bills." In each instance Congress was unable to override the vetoes, and the bills were subsequently passed without the riders.

The primary issues taken up by Congress pertained, in the main, to economic matters. Although Hayes and his Secretary of the Treasury, John Sherman, were determined to maintain the gold standard to assist business, the continuing effects of the depression that began in 1873 increased agitation among farmers, workers, and debtors for an inflated currency of silver as well as greenbacks.

By 1875, the uniting of agricultural interests with the silver-mining advocates of the West had helped to give the Democrats control of the House, and, in December 1876, the House passed a bill introduced by Representative Richard P. Bland, a Missouri Democrat, for the free and unlimited coinage of silver and the Coinage Act of 1873. After the House again passed Bland's bill early in 1878, Senator William B. Allison of Iowa attached a number of amendments to the bill which posed a more serious threat of inflation but authorized a controlled silver coinage of between \$2 million and \$3 million a month. The compromise Bland-Allison Act, which satisfied the bankers more than the inflationists, became law on February 28, after it was passed over Hayes' veto.

MAJOR ACTS

Bland-Allison Act. Provided for the Secretary of the Treasury to make monthly purchases of not less than \$2 million and not more than \$4 million worth of silver to be coined into silver dollars. The Act also made silver legal tender "except where otherwise" stipulated in contracts, authorized the issuance of paper money backed by coin deposits in the Treasury, and directed the President to call an international monetary conference for the purpose of setting a ratio between gold and silver. The President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, was to appoint three commissioners to attend the conference on behalf of the United States. Approved February 28, 1878. (20 Stat. 25-26)

Army Appropriation Bill of 1878. In part provided that it would be unlawful "to employ any part of the Army of the United States, as a posse comitatus, or otherwise, for the purpose of executing the laws, except in such cases and under such circumstances as such employment of said forces may be expressly authorized by the Constitution or by act of Congress." Approved June 18, 1878. (20 Stat. 152)

Creation of the United States Geological Survey. Established the U.S. Geological Survey as a bureau in the Interior Department with a director to be appointed by the President. Approved March 3, 1879. (20 Stat. 394-395)

FORTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
December 5, 1881-March 3, 1883
(Administration of Chester A. Arthur)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Upon assuming the Presidency following the assassination of James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur was confronted by popular demands for downward revision of the protective tariff and changes in the hiring practices of the Federal civil service, looking to establishment of a "merit" system as opposed to the longstanding patronage policy. Preceding his election as Vice President in 1880, Arthur had identified with the "Stalwart" branch of the Republican organization; the Stalwarts strongly opposed both downward revision of the tariff and civil service reform. As President, however, Arthur declared that he was in favor these changes.

Although the United States experienced a mild recession in 1883, civil service and tariff reform occupied most of Congress' attention. In January 1883, Arthur signed the Pendleton Act, which established a Civil Service Commission to develop and administer competitive examinations for Federal positions. One of the rules specified under the law provided that Federal employees were under no obligation to contribute to any political fund and would not be removed or otherwise prejudiced for refusing to do so. The Act made it a crime for any Federal employee to solicit campaign funds from another Federal employee.

The controversy in the Congress over tariff reform, which could not be ignored and had urged in view of the growing Treasury surplus following the Civil War, continued for another two months. Ultimately, this resulted in a reduction of rates which averaged only about 5 percent. This latter action came about despite the recommendation of the Tariff Commission, specifically set up by Congress in May 1882 to provide a more scientific basis for tariff legislation, for a general 25 percent lowering of duties.

Economic concerns prompted demands by organized labor for a 20-year restriction on Chinese immigration and a bill to that effect was passed by Congress on April 4, 1882. President Arthur vetoed the bill, declaring that the twenty-year suspension was "unreasonable." Failing to override the veto, Congress re-wrote the bill, reducing the term of exclusion to ten years. On this basis it was enacted into law later the same month. Early in August 1882, Congress approved a second major piece of immigration legislation, this time providing for the exclusion of all "undesirables" such as the insane, paupers, and criminals and established a head tax of 50 cents on each immigrant. In other action a second anti-pologamy law was approved which imposed additional penalties on those who engaged in such practices.

MAJOR ACTS

Edmunds Anti-Polygamy Act. Imposed penalties on the practice of polygamy and disqualified those who practiced or approved it from voting, holding public office, or serving on juries dealing with prosecutions for polygamy. Placed elections in Utah under the supervision of a board of five persons appointed by the President. Approved March 22, 1882. (22 Stat. 30-32)

Chinese Exclusion Act. Suspended the immigration of Chinese laborers to United States for a period of ten years, and denied citizenship to all foreign-born Chinese. Proposed legislation prohibiting Chinese immigration for twenty years, which had earlier been vetoed by President Chester Arthur on April 4, 1882. Approved May 6, 1882. (22 Stat. 58-61)

Creation of a Tariff Commission. Set up a nine-man Tariff Commission, to be appointed by the President from "civil life," to suggest reforms in view of the accumulating surplus in the Treasury. Approved May 15, 1882. (22 Stat. 64)

Immigration Act of 1882. Prohibited all "undesirables," such as paupers, criminals, convicts, and the insane, from entering the United States and established a head tax of 50 cents on each immigrant. Approved August 3, 1882. (22 Stat. 214-215)

Pendleton Act. Established a bipartisan three-man Civil Service Commission to be appointed by the President, and instructed the Commission to formulate and administer competitive examinations for determining the fitness of applicants for Federal appointments. Further provided that no Federal employee was under "any obligation to contribute to any political fund...and that he will not be removed or otherwise prejudiced for refusing to do so." This Act also made it crime for any Federal employee to solicit campaign funds from another Federal employee. Approved January 16, 1883. (22 Stat. 403-407)

"Mongrel Tariff" of 1883. Made the first general revision in tariffs since the Civil War. It maintained the protective principle on several items while lowering the tariff rates on others. Approved March 3, 1883. (22 Stat. 488-526)

FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS
December 3, 1883-March 3, 1885
(Administration of Chester A. Arthur)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Major legislation approved by the Forty-eighth Congress placed further restrictions on foreign immigration, by first amending the Chinese Exclusion Act with an eye toward even harsher punishments for those violating the law, and then, in February 1885, prohibiting foreign contract laborers from entering the country. Meanwhile, Congress, in an effort to provide the Government with accurate statistics for making evaluations regarding the Nation's labor force, established the Bureau of Labor.

MAJOR ACTS

Bureau of Labor. Established a Bureau of Labor in the Department of the Interior to collect statistics on labor in the United States, its relation to capital, the hours of labor, and the earnings of laboring men and women, and the means of promoting their material, intellectual, and social prosperity. The Bureau became part of the Department of Labor in 1913. Approved June 27, 1884. (23 Stat. 60-61)

Second Chinese Exclusion Act. Amended the First Chinese Exclusion Act, limiting the the meaning of the word "merchant," and making additional requirements of identification for "visitors." Placed stringent penalties on the master of any vessel attempting to land or permitting the landing of Chinese laborers. The law did not apply to those Chinese who were in the United States on or before November 17, 1880, or who were admitted on a certificate from the Chinese Government which had been endorsed by American diplomatic representatives abroad. Approved July 5, 1884. (23 Stat. 115-118)

Contract Labor Act. Prohibited the immigration of contract laborers into the United States except for domestic servants or skilled labor not otherwise obtainable for new industries. Approved February 26, 1885. (23 Stat. 332-333)

FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS
December 7, 1885-March 3, 1887
(First Administration of Grover Cleveland)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Early in 1886, two months after the death of Vice President Thomas A. Hendricks, and with the lingering disability and subsequent death of President James A. Garfield still fresh in their minds, Congress passed the Presidential Succession Act of 1886.

The following year, Congress moved to avoid disputed national elections with the passage of the Electoral Count Act, and made fundamental changes in the legal status of Indians in the United States. Also in February 1887, after more than a decade of increasing public demands for Federal regulation of the Nation's railroads, a bi-partisan anti-railroad faction in Congress championed and saw to passage the Interstate Commerce Act. This legislation established broad Federal controls over the actions of all railroads engaged in interstate commerce. The Act was to be administered by the Interstate Commerce Commission, the first independent regulatory agency, established specifically for that purpose.

MAJOR ACTS

Presidential Succession Act. Provided that "in case of removal, death, resignation, or inability of both the President and the Vice President," the heads of the Executive Departments, in order of the creation of their offices, would succeed to the Presidency. Approved January 19, 1886. (24 Stat. 1-2)

Electoral Count Act. Fixed the day for the meeting of Presidential electors and delegated to each State the responsibility for enumerating its electoral returns as far as possible. Required Congress to accept a State's electoral vote unless it was unable to decide the matter, or if a fraud were committed. Approved February 3, 1887. (24 Stat. 373-375)

Interstate Commerce Act. Created a presidentially appointed five-man Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). Declared that all charges made by interstate railroads must be "reasonable and just" but did not define those terms or authorize the ICC to fix rates. It also prohibited pooling operations, discriminatory rates, drawbacks, and rebates, and outlawed the practice of charging more for a short haul than for a long haul over the same line. Railroads were required to post their rates and were forbidden from changing them without 10-days' public notice. The ICC was authorized to investigate

railroad practices and to issue cease and desist orders. Railroads were required to file annual reports on operations and finances with the ICC, and to adopt a uniform system of accounting. Approved February 4, 1887. (24 Stat. 379-387)

Dawes Severalty Act. Authorized the individual allotment of Indian reservation lands to tribal members and conveyed citizenship upon the allottee on termination of the trust status of the land or to any Indian who voluntarily established residence apart from his tribe and adopted the "habits of civilized life." Provided that the head of each household was to be allotted 80 acres of agricultural land or 160 acres of grazing land. A single person under 18 was to receive half this amount. The Federal Government was to retain title to the land for at least 25 years, or longer if the President deemed an extension desirable. Approved February 8, 1887. (24 Stat. 388-391)

Hatch Act. Provided subsidies to States for the establishment and support of agricultural experiment stations administered by agricultural colleges in each State for educational extension programs for farmers and for agricultural research. Approved March 2, 1887. (24 Stat 440-442)

Repeal of Tenure of Office Act. Repealed the Tenure of Office Act of 1867. Approved March 3, 1887. (24 Stat. 500)

FIFTIETH CONGRESS
December 5, 1887-March 3, 1889
(First Administration of Grover Cleveland)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In February 1889, near the close of President Grover Cleveland's first Administration, Congress raised the Department of Agriculture to Cabinet status. Its establishment culminated a decade-and-a-half popular movement supported by the National Grange, the new farmer alliances, and other farm groups for a Department in Washington to represent their interests and clothed with the same dignity and power that other executive departments had.

The National Bureau of Labor was transformed, in June 1888, into an independent department by the Fiftieth Congress, but did not obtain Cabinet status for another twenty-five years. Still, labor issues continued to interest Congress and, by the fall of 1888, Congress had enacted the first law providing for Federal arbitration of labor disputes involving railroads and other common carriers and their employees.

MAJOR ACTS

Department of Labor Act. Transformed the National Bureau of Labor (created in 1884 as part of the Department of Interior) into an independent agency, but without Cabinet rank (which was achieved in 1913). Approved June 13, 1888. (25 Stat. 182-184)

Railroad Arbitration Act. Provided for voluntary arbitration in railroad-labor conflicts and empowered the President to name an investigatory committee with power to act as a board of conciliation. Approved October 1, 1888. (25 Stat. 501-504)

Department of Agriculture Act. Raised the Commission on Agriculture to Cabinet level under the supervision and control of a Secretary of Agriculture who was to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Approved February 9, 1889. (25 Stat. 659)

FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS
December 2, 1889-March 3, 1891
(Administration of Benjamin Harrison)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

With the passage of an Act creating the Territory of Oklahoma on May 2, 1890, Congress signaled the final demise of the governments of the Five Civilized Tribes (the Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw). Two months later, as a token of appreciation to Union veterans of the Civil War, the Fifty-first Congress passed the Dependent Pension Act of 1890.

Responding to public pressure for strong Federal action against monopolies, and hoping to dispel the notion that high tariffs were the "mother of trusts," Congress in July 1890 passed the Sherman Antitrust Act formalizing long-standing common law with the basic objective of preserving free enterprise. The Silver Purchase Act, approved that same July, was agreed in order to secure the need support from those in Congress who had long argued for a higher protective tariff.

Grover Cleveland and the Democrats had urged during the 1888 Presidential campaign that the tariff should be lowered, while Benjamin Harrison and the Republicans had argued exactly the opposite. Although Harrison received fewer popular votes than Cleveland, he was elected President and his party gained control of Congress. The Republican victory was hailed as a popular mandate for protectionism, and the Republicans immediately moved to enact a new tariff as soon as the Fifty-first Congress assembled. Had concessions not been made to the Western Silver Republicans, however, Representative William McKinley's tariff bill would have been permanently blocked in the Senate. Ironically, the McKinley Tariff proved to be extremely unpopular and contributed to the Republican defeat in the congressional elections of 1890 and the Presidential election two years later.

Harrison on his last day as President also signed an act creating the Court of Appeals and legislation authorizing future Chief Executives to set aside any part of the public domain for national forests.

MAJOR ACTS

Territory of Oklahoma. Created the Oklahoma Territory out of the western half of the unorganized Indian Territory. The new territory included primarily that area not reserved for the Five Civilized Tribes, plus a strip of land west of the 100th meridian which had been acquired from Texas in 1850. It also provided for a temporary government for this new territory. Approved May 2, 1890. (26 Stat. 81-100)

Dependent Pension and Disability Act. Granted pensions to veterans of the Union forces with at least 90 days' service during the Civil War who had been honorably discharged, and who were suffering at the time of enactment, or would in the future, a physical or mental disability of a permanent nature, which rendered them unable to earn a livelihood by manual labor. Pensions were also were to be provided to minor children, dependent parents, and widows who had married veterans before passage of Act and had to work for a living. Approved June 27, 1890. (26 Stat. 182-183)

Sherman Antitrust Act. Empowered the Federal Government to prosecute any corporation or person entering into contracts of restraint of interstate trade or commerce with foreign countries. Provided for fines of \$5,000 and jail terms of up to one year for persons found guilty of monopolizing or attempting to monopolize commerce. Gave any private individual "injured in his business or property" by monopolistic practices the right to sue for triple damages. Jurisdiction over such cases was assigned to the Federal Circuit Courts. Approved July 2, 1890. (26 Stat. 209-210)

Sherman Silver Purchase Act. Required the U.S. Treasury to purchase 4.5 million ounces of silver bullion each month at the prevailing market price and to issue legal tender Treasury notes redeemable in gold or silver at the option of the Government. Repealed the Bland-Allison Act of 1878. Approved July 14, 1890. (26 Stat. 289-290)

McKinley Tariff Act. Raised duties an average of between 48 to 49 percent. Provided for the first protective duties on agricultural products. Raised the duties on all foreign articles which under previous tariff laws could compete with similar articles of domestic production. Provision made for limited reciprocity treaties to encourage reciprocity between the United States and countries that produced sugar, molasses, coffee, tea, and hides. Approved October 1, 1890. (26 Stat. 567-625)

Court of Appeals Act. Created an intermediate court to be known as the Court of Appeals to relieve the United States Supreme Court of considering all appeals. The system was to be made up of eleven districts each containing from 3 to 15 circuit judgeships. Approved March 3, 1891. (26 Stat. 826-830)

Forestry Reserves Act of 1891. Repealed the Timber Culture Act of 1878 and authorized the President to set aside forest reserve lands (subsequently called national forests) in any part of the public domain. Approved March 3, 1891. (26 Stat. 1103)

International Copyright Act. Provided copyright protection for foreign authors whose government's permitted American authors the benefit of copyright on substantially the same basis as they did their own citizens. Approved March 3, 1891. (26 Stat. 1106-1110)

FIFTY-SECOND CONGRESS
December 7, 1891-March 3, 1893
(Administration of Benjamin Harrison)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Much of the major work of the Fifty-second Congress focused on American industrial conflicts. Although Congress in 1868 had established an eight-hour day on public works projects, private industry had never followed suit. Industry had moved from twelve- and thirteen-hour days early in the nineteenth century, to ten-hour days and a fifty-eight to sixty-hour week by 1890, but many still felt such concessions were insufficient, and considerable agitation for the eight-hour day continued. In August 1892, nearly two decades before most American workers were to gain any additional concessions, Congress enacted an eight-hour day for all government employees.

The Railway Safety Appliance Act of March 1893, designed to assure greater safety of railroad employees as well as passengers, was likewise adopted with the bipartisan approval of a Democratic House and a Republican Senate. Other major pieces of legislation approved by the Fifty-second Congress extended the Chinese Exclusion Act for another ten years and provided that the President might appoint ambassadors instead of ministers.

MAJOR ACTS

Geary Chinese Exclusion Act. Extended the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 for another 10 years and provided regulations for deportation of Chinese not lawfully entitled to remain in the United States. Required that all Chinese laborers entitled to remain in the United States obtain certificates of residence from district collectors of internal revenue. Approved May 5, 1892. (27 Stat. 25-26) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Wong Wing v. United States, 163 U.S. 228 (1896).

Eight-Hour Day. Limited the hours of daily service of laborers and mechanics employed by the Government of the United States, by the District of Columbia, or by any contractor or subcontractor of a public works. Approved August 1, 1892. (27 Stat. 340)

Diplomatic Appropriations Act. Authorized the President to allow certain American envoys accredited to foreign countries as ministers to receive the title of ambassador. Approved March 1, 1893. (27 Stat. 497)

Railway Safety Appliance Act. Required that all railroads engaged in interstate commerce equip their cars with automatic couplers and continuous brakes and their locomotives with driving-wheel brakes after January 1, 1898. March 2, 1893. (27 State. 531-532)

FIFTY-THIRD AND FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESSES
 August 7, 1893-March 3, 1895
 December 2, 1895-March 3, 1897
 (Second Administration of Grover Cleveland)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Cleveland Administration was just two months old when the failure of the National Cordage Company inaugurated the "Panic of 1893." Although the fundamental causes of this panic, remain obscure, the the Government's silver policy was an important factor. The Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890 impaired confidence in the business world at home and persuaded many European creditors to dump their American securities on the market, thereby draining the Nation of its gold. Contrary to the President's hopes, the successful battle to repeal the Act did little to alleviate the deepening depression.

Cleveland was even further dismayed when Congress enacted the Wilson-Gorman Tariff of 1894 (against his wishes and without his signature), which provided for the first major reduction in the tariff rates since immediately following the Civil War. When the Supreme Court struck down the income tax provision of the Act in 1895, it was accused of joining Cleveland and the rich against the poor.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Repeal of Sherman Silver Purchase Act. Repealed the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of July 14, 1890, which in part provided for the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase 4,5000,000 ounces of silver bullion annually. Approved November 1, 1893. (28 Stat. 4)

Bureau of Immigration. Required the Secretary of the Treasury recommend a plan, by the next Congress, for organizing a Bureau of Immigration, and authorized the President to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, commissioners of immigration for the term of four years. Approved August 18, 1894. (28 Stat. 391)

Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act. Reduced the average ad valorem tariff rate to approximately 40 percent, and permitted the Federal Government to levy an income tax on incomes in excess of \$4,000 per year. Approved August 27, 1894. (28 Stat. 509-570) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Pollock v. Farmers' Loan & Trust Co., 157 U.S. 429 (1895).

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"Act of Oblivion." Repealed the law holding that those individuals who held commissions or served in any official capacity in the Confederate States were not eligible to hold a position in the army or navy of the United States. Approved March 31, 1896. (29 Stat. 84)

FIFTY-FIFTH CONGRESS
March 15, 1897-March 3, 1899
(First Administration of William McKinley)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

President William McKinley, an arch-protectionist, in his inaugural address of March 4, 1897, called for higher duties and soon afterwards summoned a special session of Congress to enact them. The Dingley Tariff, approved on July 24, had the distinction of imposing the highest average rate of custom duties written up to that time into any U.S. tariff law.

With the passage of the Dingley Tariff, American attention began to focus on the propriety of forcing Spain to grant independence to Cuba, whose economy was closely geared to important segments of American industry. In February 1898, a violent explosion sank the American battleship U.S.S. Maine in Havana harbor, and, by mid-April, both McKinley and Congress had succumbed to the growing clamor for war against Spain. On June 13, Congress approved an extensive war revenue bill. Before the year was out, American soldiers had wrestled a centuries old empire from Spain. Under the terms of the Treaty of Paris of December 10, officially ending the Spanish-American War, Spain ceded Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippine Islands to the United States, and the sovereignty of Cuba was established.

Also in 1898, the fear of Japanese designs on the Hawaiian Islands and the value the Hawaiian harbors offered for the use of the United States during the recently concluded war with Spain, aroused widespread sentiment for annexation. On July 7, 1898, Hawaii was annexed by a joint resolution and on August 12, the sovereignty over the Islands formally transferred to the United States.

Seeking a solution to continuing railroad controversies, Congress in late May 1898 approved legislation providing for mediation in any future disputes. On July 1, 1898, a new Federal Bankruptcy act became law.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Dingley Tariff Act. Imposed the highest average rate of custom duties written into any U.S. tariff law up to that time. Approved July 24, 1897. (30 Stat. 151-214)

Recognition of Cuban Independence (Teller Amendment). Recognized the independence of Cuba and demanded that Spain relinquish authority and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba. Directed the President to use force in carrying out this resolution. Disclaimed any intention of exercising sovereignty over Cuba. Approved April 20, 1898. (30 Stat. 738-739)

War Revenue Act. Imposed taxes on fermented liquors, tobacco, seats and berths in parlor and sleeping cars, mixed flour, legacies and individual shares of personal property. Placed a duty of 10 cents per pound on imported tea, and authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow sums at 3 percent which might be necessary to meet public expenditures on certificates not to exceed \$100 million. Passed June 13, 1898. (30 Stat. 448-470) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Fairbank v. United States, 181 U.S. 283 (1901), and United States v. Hvoslef, 237 U.S. 1 (1915).

Erdman Act. Provided for mediation by the Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor in railroad disputes, although neither official was empowered legally to initiate proceedings. Approved June 1, 1898. (30 Stat. 424-428)

Federal Bankruptcy Act. Extended the legal means for declaring bankruptcy to traders and nontraders and provided for the creditor participation and the discharge of the debtor. Approved July 1, 1898. (30 Stat. 544-566)

Hawaiian Annexation. Annexed the Hawaiian Islands as part of the United States and provided that, until such time as the Congress provided for a government in the Islands, all civil, judicial, and military powers would be vested in such persons as the President might appoint. Approved July 7, 1898. (30 Stat. 750-751)

Peace Treaty With Spain (Treaty of Paris). Ended the Spanish-American War and secured from Spain a recognition of the independence of Cuba and an agreement to assume the Cuban debt. In addition Spain ceded Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States as a war indemnity, and ceded the Philippines to the United States in return for a payment of \$20,000,000. Concluded December 10, 1898. Approved by the Senate February 6, 1899. (30 Stat. 1754-1762)

FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS
December 4, 1899-March 3, 1901
(First Administration of William McKinley)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Throughout much of his first term, President McKinley avoided any action which would return the United States to the gold standard until the chronic shortage of gold had been eliminated and the silver sentiment had waned. Finally, in his annual message of December 5, 1899, he called for legislation, and Congress adopted the Gold Standard Act, which he signed on March 14, 1900.

Under the Foraker Act providing for a civil government in Puerto Rico, approved a month later, McKinley was able to appoint a governor, an executive council, consisting of the heads of six administrative departments provided for by the law, and five native Puerto Ricans. On April 30, Hawaii was accorded full territorial status.

Believing that an immediate and complete withdrawal from Cuba would endanger Cuban political stability and American financial and strategic interests, Secretary of War Elihu Root drafted, and Senator Orville H. Platt of Connecticut introduced, an amendment to the Army Appropriations Bill of 1901 limiting the power of Cuba to make treaties, borrow money, or change certain policies established by American occupation forces, and required the sale or lease of lands for a naval base. A second amendment to the Army Appropriations Bill, sponsored by Senator John C. Spooner of Wisconsin, provided a temporary civil government for the Philippine Islands.

MAJOR ACTS

Currency Act of 1900 (Gold Standard Act). Declared the gold dollar of 25.8 grains to be the standard unit of monetary value and placed all forms U.S. currency on a parity with gold. Established a separate gold reserve of \$150 million, to be maintained by the sale of bonds, for the redemption of legal tender notes. Also authorized national banks with a capital of not less than \$25,000 in towns of under 3,000 population. Approved March 14, 1900. (31 Stat. 45-50)

Foraker Act. Provided for the establishment of civil government in Puerto Rico, to take effect May 1, 1900. Made the Island an unorganized territory with its residents made citizens of Puerto Rico (U.S citizenship was granted to them in 1917). The President was empowered to appoint a governor and council. The council was to serve as the upper house of the legislature; the lower house was to be popularly elected. Both the executive and legislature were endowed with the veto power. Approved April 12, 1900. (31 Stat. 77-86)

Hawaiian Organic Act. Accorded Hawaii the political status of an incorporated territory covered by the U.S. Constitution and conferred American citizenship on all who had been citizens of Hawaii at the time of annexation. Approved April 30, 1900. (31 Stat. 141-162)

Platt Amendment. Prohibited Cuba from making a treaty with any foreign nation which would impair its independence or contracting a debt beyond the ability of its regular revenues to pay. In addition, it gave the United States the right to intervene in Cuban affairs to preserve its independence and maintain law and order. Also required Cuba to sell or lease land to the United States for coaling and naval stations. Approved March 2, 1901. (31 Stat. 897-898)

Spooner Amendment. Authorized the President to establish a temporary civil government in the Philippine Islands. Approved March 2, 1901. (31 Stat. 910)

FIFTY-SEVENTH AND FIFTY-EIGHTH CONGRESSES
December 2, 1901-March 3, 1903
November 9, 1903-March 3, 1905
(First Administration of Theodore Roosevelt)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

President William McKinley's assassination, six months after his second inauguration, brought forty-three-year-old Theodore Roosevelt into the White House on September 14, 1901. Three months later, the new Administration signed, and the Senate promptly ratified, the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty with Great Britain, which permitted the United States to construct, control, and fortify a canal across the Isthmus of Panama. In June 1902, Congress passed the Spooner Act, authorizing construction of the canal at a cost not to exceed \$40,000,000.

Following the successful 1904 Panamanian revolt against the authority of Columbia, Secretary of State John Hay and the new Panamanian Minister to the United States, Philippe Jean Bunau-Varilla, signed a treaty giving the United States complete and permanent sovereignty over a ten-mile strip across the Isthmus of Panama. The Senate approved the treaty on February 23, 1904.

Adoption of the Permanent Census Act of March 1902, culminated some seventy years of recommendations and efforts to establish a permanent census organization. Now the Bureau of the Census for the first time was able to perform a diversified program of census and surveys. Between 1790 to 1900, Congress had relied upon temporary organizations and as a consequence was only able to compile the national decennial census.

In keeping with the antitrust activities of the Roosevelt Administration, the Expedition Act was passed in February 1903, to speed up Federal prosecution of antitrust suits. The Department of Commerce and Labor was created later the same month with a Bureau of Corporations empowered to investigate and report upon the activities of corporations engaged in interstate commerce. To reenforce the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887, Congress then passed the Elkins Act of 1903, aimed against the practice of granting rebates to favored shippers.

Early in 1905, President Roosevelt signed a law placing control of the nation's forest reserves under the Department of Agriculture.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. Abrogated the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty of 1850 between the United States and Great Britain, and gave the United States the right to build, operate, and fortify a canal across the Isthmus of Panama.

Declared that the canal would be kept open and free to ships of all nations on equal terms. Concluded November 18, 1901. Approved by the Senate December 16, 1901. (32 Stat. 1903-1905).

Permanent Census Office. Transformed the Census Bureau from temporary to permanent status, and for a Director of the Census to be appointed by the President, subject to Senate confirmation, whose responsibilities would center on the decennial population census, an annual compilation of vital statistics and a mid-decade collection of the statistics on manufacturers. Approved March 6, 1902. (32 Stat. 51-53)

Newlands Reclamation Act. Authorized the Federal Government to devote almost the entire amount of the proceeds of sales of public lands in 16 western and southwestern States for the development of irrigation projects. The settlers in turn were to agree to repay the cost of construction, thus creating a permanent revolving fund for the construction of irrigation works. Approved June 17, 1902. (32 Stat. 388-390)

Spooner (Isthmus of Panama Canal) Act. Provide for the purchase, at a cost of \$40 million the rights, privileges, franchises, concessions, grants of land, right of way, unfinished work, plants, and other property owned by the New Panama Canal Company of France on the Isthmus of Panama. Authorized the President to purchase from the Republic of Columbia under such terms as he might deem reasonable, perpetual control of a strip of land, not less than six miles wide, extending from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean. Approved June 28, 1902. (32 Stat. 481-484)

Philippine Government Act. Declared the Philippine Islands to be an "unorganized" territory, and recognized the inhabitants of the Islands as citizens of the Philippine Islands and entitled to the protection of the U.S. Confirmed the President's action in creating the Philippine Commission to govern the Territory and provided for a Philippine Assembly consisting of not less than fifty nor more than one hundred members to be elected by qualified voters for two-year terms, each member to represent a constituency on the basis of population. Approved July 1, 1902. (32 Stat. 691-712)

Expedition Act. Designed to expedite Federal prosecution of Federal antitrust suits, giving such proceedings precedence on the dockets of the circuit courts. Approved February 11, 1903. (32 Stat. 823)

Establishment of the Department of Commerce and Labor. Established the Department of Commerce as the ninth Cabinet office, with a Bureau of Corporations empowered to investigate and report upon the activities of corporations engaged in interstate and foreign commerce. Approved February 14, 1903. (32 Stat. 825-830)

Elkins Act. Defined what constituted unfair discrimination between shippers engaged in interstate commerce and provided for the punishment of shippers and railway officials and agents, as well as railroad corporations, giving or received rebates. Approved February 19, 1903. (32 Stat. 847-849)

Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty. Granted to the United States full and permanent sovereignty over a 10-mile wide zone across the Isthmus of Panama and transferred all rights, properties, and concessions of the New Panama Canal Company and the Panama Railroad Company. The United States agreed to pay Columbia \$10 million and an annual fee of \$250,000 starting nine years after the treaty took effect. Approved November 18, 1903. Approved by Senate February 23, 1904. (33 Stat. 2234-2241)

Transfer Act of 1905. Transferred control of the nation's forest reserves from the Department of Interior to the Department of Agriculture. Approved February 1, 1905. (33 Stat. 628)

FIFTY-NINTH AND SIXTIETH CONGRESSES

December 4, 1905-March 3, 1907

December 2, 1907-March 3, 1909

(Second Administration of Theodore Roosevelt)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Responding to widespread public demands for new and stricter legislation to curb railroad malpractices, President Roosevelt in December 1905 called on Congress to broaden and strengthen the authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Six months later, Congress passed the Hepburn Act, which granted the Commission the power to set "reasonable" rates subject to a broad review by the Supreme Court.

Also in June 1906, the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization was established to deal more effectively with the ever-increasing numbers of immigrants. A measure approved on March 2, 1907, set forth the basis for issuance of U.S. passports to non-Americans and specific requirements for the act of expatriation.

The American Antiquities Act of June 8, 1906, provided protection for endangered archaeological and scientific sites on Federal lands.

Two other major pieces of legislation enacted on June 30, 1906, stemmed from sensational revelations of unsanitary conditions in warehouses, factories, and packing plants involved with the packaging and distribution of many foods and drugs. The Meat Inspection Act required Federal inspection of all meat involved in interstate or foreign commerce. The Pure Food and Drug Act prohibited the misbranding and adulteration of food and medicines involved in such commerce. (The Constitution reserves for the States the right to regulate goods not involved in interstate or foreign commerce.)

The Stock Market Panic of March 1907, and the business failures in mid-year, once again revealed serious flaws in the U.S. currency and credit structure. In May 1908, Congress passed the Aldrich-Vreeland Emergency Currency Act, designed to introduce an element of elasticity into the national currency with the object of preventing future panics.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

American Antiquities Act. Required that a permit be obtained for examination of ruins, excavation of archeological sites, and the gathering of objects of antiquity on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and Army. Also authorized the President to designate by public proclamations objects or areas of historical or scientific interest as National Monuments. Approved June 8, 1906. (34 Stat. 225)

Hepburn Act. Empowered the Interstate Commerce Commission to fix minimum railroad rates and prescribe uniform accounting systems for railroad corporations. Expanded the ICC's jurisdiction to include express and sleeping car corporations, pipelines, ferries, terminals, and bridges. Curtailed the practice of granting free railroad passes and prohibited railway corporations from carrying articles produced by themselves or by businesses in which they held an interest. Also declared that ICC orders were binding unless and until overridden by a Court. Approved June 29, 1906. (34 Stat. 584-595)

Creation of Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. Established a Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, and provided for uniform rules for the naturalization of aliens throughout the United States. Stipulated that aliens had to be registered at port of entry and that no alien who was unable to read English could become a citizen. Approved June 29, 1906. (34 Stat. 596-607)

Meat Inspection Act. Authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to enforce sanitary regulations in packing establishments and to assume responsibility for Federal inspections of companies slaughtering or preparing meats to be shipped across State lines. Approved June 30, 1906. (34 Stat. 674-679)

Pure Food and Drug Act. Provided punishments for persons engaged in the manufacture, sale, or transportation of adulterated or mislabeled or poisonous or deleterious foods, drugs, medicines, and liquors, applicable to any of these items involved in interstate or foreign commerce. Approved June 30, 1906 (34 Stat. 768-772)

Treaty With Santo Domingo. Provided for the collection of customs by U.S. agents with the purpose of satisfying foreign and domestic creditors of the Dominican Republic. Formalized an agreement already in operation since 1905 under Executive order. Approved February 8, 1907. Ratified by the Senate February 25, 1907. (35 Stat. 1880-1884)

Citizenship and Expatriation Act. Established the basis upon which U.S. passports could be issued to persons who were not citizens of the United States, how a U.S. citizen could expatriate himself, and how citizenship could be granted to foreigners married to American citizens. Approved March 2, 1907. (34 Stat. 1228-1229)

Aldrich-Vreeland Emergency Currency Act. Established a National Monetary Commission to study the banking and currency systems of the United States and foreign countries. Provided also that national banks in the same locality might form "national currency associations," and in times of emergency could issue circulating notes based on commercial paper and State, county, and municipal bonds. A graduated tax of up to 10 percent was to be levied on such notes. Approved May 30, 1908. (35 Stat. 546-553)

SIXTY-FIRST CONGRESS
March 15, 1909-March 3, 1911
(Administration of William Howard Taft)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Among his early initiatives as President, William Howard Taft sent Congress two proposals that for their time were extraordinary. In the first he recommended an amendment to the Constitution conferring upon the Federal Government the power to tax incomes without apportioning the burden among the various States according to their population. The second suggestion called for a 2 percent excise tax to be levied on all corporations except national banks, savings banks, and building and loan associations.

Adoption of Taft's proposals ushered in a new era of taxation. The first income taxes were supplementary emergency measures of the Civil War period. During those years the income tax was considered a temporary war expedient. The abortive income tax of 1894 (declared unconstitutional in 1895) resulted from a great egalitarian movement generated by two prolonged postwar depressions. The two 1909 measures, however, were prompted by neither immediate nor urgent fiscal needs. Instead, they represented the climax of a conflict between opposing economic interests and political philosophies. The Sixteenth amendment, embodying Taft's proposed income tax, was approved on July 12 and forwarded to the States for ratification. On August 9, a corporate excise tax imposing a tax of 1 percent on net income above \$5,000, attached as one of 847 amendments to the Payne-Aldrich Tariff, became law.

With the enactment of the Mann-Elkins Railroad Act on June 18, 1910, the Nation's transportation and communication systems for the first time came under truly effective Government regulation. Congress, that same June, approved legislation requiring candidates for the House of Representatives to report any campaign contribution exceeding \$10, and the Mann Act barring the transportation of women across State lines for immoral purposes.

Enactment of the Weeks Act the following March established a new national policy whereby the Federal government would purchase forest lands damaged by farming, logging misuse, and fires, which threatened the headwaters of navigable rivers.

MAJOR ACTS

Sixteenth Amendment. Authorized the imposition of "taxes on income, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States and without regard to census or enumeration." Approved July 12, 1909. Ratified by the requisite number of States February 3, 1913. (36 Stat. 184)

Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act. Lowered duties to a general level of 38 percent while making sizable cuts in the duties on hides, iron ore, coal, oil, cotton, and footwear. Established a Tariff Commission and imposed a tax on interstate corporations. Approved August 5, 1909. (36 Stat. 11-118)

Mann-Elkins Act. Placed telegraph, telephone, cable, and wireless companies, as well as railroads, under the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and empowered the ICC to suspend rate increases on its initiative. It further established Federal Court of Commerce to determine appeals arising from the orders of the Commission, and authorized appointment of a special commission to investigate the need for a physical evaluation of railroads. Approved June 18, 1910. (36 Stat. 539-557)

Publicity of Campaign Contributions Act. Required that candidates for United States House of Representatives report campaign contributions of \$10 or more received by them. Approved June 25, 1910. (36 Stat. 822-824)

White-Slave Trade Act (Mann Act). Barred transportation of women across State lines for immoral purposes. Approved June 25, 1910. (36 Stat. 825-827)

Weeks Act. Authorized interstate compacts for the purpose of conserving forests and water supplies, Federal grants to States to aid in the prevention of forest fires upon watersheds of navigable waters, acquisition of land by the Federal government for the protection of watersheds, and grants to States of a percentage of the proceeds derived from national forests located within their boundaries, to be used for schools and roads. Approved March 1, 1911. (36 Stat. 961-963)

SIXTY-SECOND CONGRESS
April 4, 1911-March 3, 1913
(Administration of William Howard Taft)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

With the ratification of the Seventeenth Amendment in May 1913, providing for the popular election of Senators, Congress implemented one of the principal goals of reformers. It was expected to democratize the Senate and end a system many contended had filled the upper chamber with men who represented political machines and corporate interests rather than the people.

Responding to increased prohibitionist sentiment, Congress passed the Webb-Kanyon Interstate Liquor Act of 1913, forbidding interstate shipment of liquor into States in which the sale of it was illegal. The bill was vetoed by President Taft but passed over his veto. This marked the first nationwide victory for the Anti-Saloon League.

The culmination of the drive by labor unions for labor representation in the Government also came in 1913, when the Department of Labor was separated from Commerce and given Cabinet status. President Taft signed the bill as one of his last official acts as President on March 4. That same March, the Interstate Commerce Commission was given authority to use the physical valuation of railroads as a basis for rate-making.

President Taft during his last year in the White House also signed a bill creating the Territory of Alaska.

MAJOR ACTS

Alaska Organic Act. Created the Territory of Alaska, granted American citizenship to its residents, and conferred legislative powers upon an elected legislative assembly for the territory. Also Provided that the Constitution and all the laws of the United States that were not locally inapplicable should have the same force and effect within the territory as elsewhere in the United States. By this act, the legal status of Alaska became that of an incorporated territory of the U.S. Approved August 24, 1912. (37 Stat. 512-518)

Seventeenth Amendment. Provided that Senators were to be elected by direct popular vote, and that State legislatures could empower the chief executive of the State to fill vacancies pending a new election. Approved May 13, 1912. (37 Stat. 646) Ratified by the requisite number of States April 8, 1913.

Webb-Kenyon Interstate Liguor Act. Prohibited interstate shipping of liquor into States where its sale was illegal. Approved March 1, 1913. (37 Stat. 699-700)

Physical Valuation Act. Empowered the Interstate Commerce Commission to make thorough investigations of property held or used by railroads under its jurisdiction and to establish cost and physical valuation as a basis for rate making and the fixing of a reasonable profit. Approved March 1, 1913. (37 Stat. 701-703)

Establishment of the Department of Labor. Separated the Department of Commerce and Labor into two Cabinet level departments and established the U.S. Board of Mediation and Conciliation. Approved March 4, 1913. (37 Stat. 736-738)

SIXTY-THIRD CONGRESS
April 7, 1913-March 3, 1915
(First Administration of Woodrow Wilson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Riding the wave of his New Freedom campaign, Woodrow Wilson, during his first twenty months as President, was able to gain congressional support for several monumental pieces of legislation. Using the Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate, he was successful in winning approval for the Underwood-Simmons Tariff Act, which reduced duties on 958 articles, and provided for an income tax and tax levies; the Federal Reserve Act, which gave the Federal Government control over the Nation's credit system; the Federal Trade Commission Act, giving the Federal Government authority to crack down on unfair competition in business; and the Clayton Antitrust Act, which reinforced and strengthened the Sherman Antitrust Act.

Passage of the Smith-Lever Act of May 1914 formalized agricultural extension work as a joint undertaking between the Department of Agriculture and the nation's land-grant colleges with the intent of helping to make practical use of recent research and scientific advancements.

Congress approved the War Revenue Act of October 1914, to offset the tremendous decline in import duties brought on by the war in Europe. The following January Congress created the United States Coast Guard.

MAJOR ACTS

Underwood-Simmons Tariff Act. Lowered the overall average of duties from 38 percent under the Payne-Aldrich Tariff of 1909 to less than 30 percent. Reduced duties on 958 items including iron, steel, and woolens, greatly expanded the free list to include wool, sugar, iron ore, barbed wire, agricultural implements, hides, leather, footwear, hemp, wood, coal, and many foodstuffs. In addition it empowered the President to negotiate reciprocal trade agreements, provided anti-dumping measures, established a one percent tax on incomes above \$2,000 with a \$1,000 exemption for married men, and a graduated one to six percent levy on incomes from \$20,000 to \$500,000 and above. Approved October 3, 1913. (38 Stat. 114-202)

Federal Reserve Bank Act. Authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Comptroller of the Currency, acting as "The Federal Reserve Bank Organization Committee," to designate not fewer than eight nor more than twelve cities to be known as Federal reserve cities,

and divided the continental United States into districts containing only one Federal reserve city. The districts thus created could be readjusted from time to time, but could not exceed twelve in all. Created the Federal Reserve Board of seven members (later enlarged to eight) with authority to raise or lower the rediscount rate prevailing in the several districts. Required that each Reserve Bank, barring an emergency, maintain a gold reserve amount to 40 percent of the notes it had issued. Approved December 23, 1913. (38 Stat. 251-275)

Smith-Lever Act. Provided for an elaborate system of agricultural extension work, based on cooperation between the Department of Agriculture and the land grant colleges. Approved May 8, 1914. (38 Stat. 372-375)

Federal Trade Commission Act. Outlawed the practice of unfair methods of competition in interstate commerce. Established a five-man Federal Trade Commission (no more than three of whom might belong to the same political party) with authority to demand annual and special reports from corporations and to investigate the activities of persons and corporations, publish reports on findings, and issue cease and desist orders (subject to judicial review in the Federal courts), to maintain retail prices, and to prevent unfair business practices, trade boycotts, mislabeling, adulteration of commodities, combinations, and false claims to patents. Approved September 26, 1914. (38 Stat. 717-724)

Clayton Antitrust Act. Prohibited price discriminations where their effect might "be to substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly," and "tying" contracts in which a purchaser agreed not to handle the products of the seller's competitors. Outlawed inter-corporate stock holding and interlocking directorates among industrial corporations of \$1 million or more. Authorized parties injured by monopolistic practices to seek relief through court injunctions, cease and desist orders from the Federal Trade Commission, and civil suits for 3-fold damages. Exempted labor and farm organizations from antitrust laws. Also prohibited court injunctions in labor disputes unless necessary to prevent irreparable property damage; declared strikes, peaceful picketing, and boycotts legal under Federal law; and provided for a jury trial in contempt cases except in instances where the act of contempt took place in court. Approved October 15, 1914. (38 Stat. 730-740)

War Revenue Act of 1914. Imposed an increase in several internal taxes including excise tax on liquors; the license tax impose on bankers, brokers, tobacco dealers, manufacturers, theaters and other amusement enterprises; and the stamp taxes laid on promissory notes, insurance policies, bills of lading, steamer tickets, parlor car seats, sleeping car berths, telegraph and telephone messages. Approved October 22, 1914. (38 Stat. 745-764)

Creation of U.S. Coast Guard. Combined the Revenue Cutter Service and the Life Saving Service to create the U.S. Coast Guard. Approved January 28, 1915. (38 Stat. 800-803)

SIXTY-FOURTH CONGRESS
December 6, 1915-March 3, 1917
(First Administration of Woodrow Wilson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Less than a year before America's entry into the First World War, Congress adopted the National Defense Act of 1916, creating a new authority under which the President could direct the National Guard to serve under Federal command. Since 1792, the President had constitutionally enjoyed the right to "call" the National Guard into active service to enforce Federal laws, suppress insurrection, and repel invasions. These troops, however, had retained State identities and the respective State governors continued to appoint and promote officers. This new law granted the President the right to "draft" or "order" the National Guard into Federal Service upon declaration of war.

Under the provisions of the Rural Post Roads Act, also passed in 1916, the Secretary of Agriculture was authorized to cooperate with the States in the construction of public roads over which the United States mails were then, or thereafter, might be transported. To accomplish this end, Congress appropriated \$75 million for a five-year period.

Agriculturalists meanwhile, in July 1916, helped inaugurate a generous Federal Farm Loan Bank Act guaranteeing mortgage loans made to the Nation's farmers. A few weeks later, the Warehouse Act was enacted to further assist farmers in financing their crops.

Also in August 1916, the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations (the forerunner of the National Park Service) was established in the Department of the Interior. The Jones Act, guaranteeing Philippine independence when the Islands demonstrated the ability to govern themselves, became law the same week.

Responding to criticism of the industrial use of child labor, Congress enacted a law in September prohibiting interstate commerce in products resulting from child labor. Culminating a 50-year campaign for an 8-hour day on the part of American labor, Congress passed the Adamson Act of 1916, limiting trainmen engaged in interstate operations to an 8-hour work day.

The Shipping Act of September 7, 1916, authorized creation of a five-member U.S. Shipping Board whose responsibility it would be to build an American merchant marine. The same day the Senate approved a treaty with Denmark allowing the United States to purchase the Virgin Islands.

With the growth of anti-foreign sentiment, Congress was called upon to pass an immigration measure designed to keep uneducated foreigners out of the U.S. Although several bills of such nature had been vetoed by Presidents Cleveland, Roosevelt, and Taft, this one was signed into law by Wilson on February 5, 1917.

A landmark in vocational education was achieved with the Smith-Hughes Act of February 23, creating a Federal Board for Vocational Education and providing Federal grant-in-aid funds to be matched by State and local contributions.

MAJOR ACTS

National Defense Act. Reformed the organization of peacetime land armed forces of the United States, which had heretofore been haphazardly and arbitrarily interrelated. The three-part division of the Regular Army, the Organized Reserves (including a training corps), and the National Guard was instituted. Authorized an increase in the strength of the Regular Army to 175,000 and a federalized National Guard to 450,000 within five years. Provided for a reserve officers training corps at colleges and universities, construction of a plant for the production of nitrates and munitions, creation of a signal corps, and an appropriation of \$6.4 billion for the purchase and maintenance of airships. Approved June 3, 1916. (39 Stat. 166-217)

Rural Post Roads Act. Authorized \$5 million in Federal aid to the States for the construction of rural post roads (roads over which the United States mails were transported) for fiscal 1917 and provided for an annual increase of an additional \$5 million a year for the four subsequent years, until the fifth year, when the amount available would be \$25 million. Also established a system of highway classification. Approved July 11, 1916. (39 Stat. 355-359)

Federal Farm Loan Bank Act. Divided the country into 12 districts in each of which there was to be a Federal Land Bank, a Loan Association made up of farmers who desired to borrow money, and created a Federal Farm Loan Board, with the Secretary of the Treasury as chairman, to administer the system. Approved July 17, 1916. (39 Stat. 360-384)

Warehouse Act. Authorized licensed and bonded warehouses to issue receipts negotiable as delivery orders or as collateral for loans. The receipts were to be issued against specified agricultural commodities, including grain, cotton, tobacco, and wool. Approved August 11, 1916. (39 Stat. 486-493)

Establishment of Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations. Created the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations in the Department of the Interior. (In 1934 this office becomes the National Park Service.) Approved August 25, 1916. (39 Stat. 535-536)

Jones Act (Organic Act of the Philippine Islands). Declared that it was the purpose of the people of the United States to provide a more autonomous government for the Philippines, granted a large measure of self-government to the Islands, and promised independence "as soon as a stable government can be established." Approved August 29, 1916. (39 Stat. 545-556)

Keating-Owen Child Labor Act. Prohibited the interstate shipment of the products of child labor and fixed minimum age and hours in different industries, 14 years for factories, 16 for mines and quarries. Approved September 1, 1916. (39 Stat. 675-676) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Hammer v. Dagenhart, 247 U.S. 251 (1918).

Adamson Act. Established a mandatory 8-hour work day and time-and-a-half for overtime on interstate railroads. Approved September 3, 5, 1916. (39 Stat. 721-722)

Shipping Act. Created a five-member U.S. Shipping Board empowered to build, purchase, lease, or requisition vessels through the emergency Fleet Corporation capitalized at \$50 million dollars. September 7, 1916. (39 Stat. 728-738)

Convention Between the United States and Denmark for Cession of the Danish West Indies. Provided for the purchase of the Virgin Islands in the West Indies from Denmark for \$22 million. Concluded August 4, 1916. Approved September 7, 1916. (39 Stat. 1706-1717)

Immigration Act. Excluded Asian laborers (unless protected by special treaties). Required that every prospective immigrant pass a literacy test preceding admission to the United States, but permitted immigration officials to exempt from the test foreigners who were fleeing from religious persecution. Approved February 5, 1917. (39 Stat. 874-898)

Smith-Hughes Act. Created the Federal Board of Vocational Education and committed the Federal Government to provide funds for promotion of vocational education in cooperation with the States. Approved February 23, 1917. (39 Stat. 929-936)

SIXTY-FIFTH CONGRESS
April 2, 1917-March 3, 1919
(Second Administration of Woodrow Wilson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Shortly after his re-election in November 1916, Woodrow Wilson made a final effort to win a negotiated peace between the Allied and Central Powers-- each hitherto having been reluctant for the most part to pursue a settlement on any but favorable terms. On January 22, in a message to Congress, Wilson suggested that a League of Nations be organized to establish and maintain world peace; he bluntly told the embattled powers that only through "peace without victory" could permanent peace be realized. Germany's reaction enhanced the prospect that the U.S would join the Allies in the war, for on November 31, it proclaimed a virtually unrestricted war by submarine against all belligerent and neutral ships. Four days later, the President before Congress announced the end of U.S. diplomatic relations with Germany.

On March 21, 1917, Wilson issued a call for a special session of Congress to convene April 2. A war resolution passed the Senate on April 4, by a vote of 82 to 6, and the House on April 6, 373 to 50. To prosecute the war, Congress during the ensuing thirteen months approved the Liberty Loan Act, to help finance American and Allied war needs; a Selective Service Act to provide for the registration and classification of all men between 21 and 30; and the Lever Food and Food Control Act, providing the President with the power to make regulations and issue orders to stimulate and conserve the production and control the distribution of the foods and fuels necessary for the war effort. A declaration of a state of war with Austria-Hungary was signed by the President on December 11, 1917.

Other important acts included the War Revenue Act, which made the income tax the chief source of revenue during the war; the Railroad Control Act, placing the Nations' railroads under Government control; the War Finance Corporation, to finance war industries; the Webb-Pomerene Export Trade Act, authorizing exporters to organize associations for export trade; and the Overman Act, authorizing the President to coordinate or consolidate executive bureaus, agencies and offices.

Legislation aimed at treasonable and disloyal activities was incorporated into the Espionage Act of June 1917 and was subsequently supplemented with three other measures: the Trading with the Enemy Act of October 1917, which prohibited commerce with enemy nations; the Sabotage Act of April 20, 1918, which provided for the punishment of persons guilty of disrupting activities related to national defense; and the Sedition Act of May 1918, which provided severe penalties for persons found guilty of making or conveying false statements interfering with the prosecution of the war.

In addition, Congress in March 1918, enacted the Daylight Standard Time Act, established a Federal responsibility for the protection of international migratory bird resources, and sent the Eighteenth amendment, prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or transportation of liquor, to the States for ratification.

MAJOR ACTS

Declaration of a State of War with Germany. Proclaimed that a state of war existed with Germany. Approved April 6, 1917. (40 Stat. 1)

Liberty Loan Act. Authorized a bond issue of \$5 billion at 3.5 percent, \$2 billion earmarked for costs of the war, and \$3 billion for loans to Allies. Approved April 24, 1917. (40 Stat. 35-37)

Selective Service Act. Required the registration and classification for military service of all men between the ages of 21 and 30 (subsequently broadened by the Manpower Act of August 31, 1918, to include all men between the ages of 18 and 45), and provided for the selection for military service of physically fit registrants on the basis of numbers chosen by lot. Approved May 18, 1917. (40 Stat. 76-83)

Espionage Act. Established severe penalties, fines up to \$10,000 and 20-years' imprisonment, for anyone found guilty of treasonable and disloyal activities against the interests of the Government. The Act empowered the Postmaster General to exclude from the mails all newspapers, periodicals, and other material alleged to be treasonable or seditious. Approved June 15, 1917. (40 Stat. 217-231)

Lever Food and Fuel Control Act. Granted to the President the authority to fix prices and to place controls on output and consumption. Forbade the importation and manufacture of distilled spirits for the duration of the war. Approved August 10, 1917. (40 Stat. 276-287)

War Revenue Act. Increased corporate and personal income taxes and established excise, excess-profits, and luxury taxes. Approved October 3, 1917. (40 Stat. 300-338)

Trading With the Enemy Act. Prohibited commercial intercourse with enemy nations or their associates. Authorized the President to place an embargo on imports, to establish censorship of any material passing between the U.S. and any foreign nation, and established a custodian of alien property. Also established a War Trade Board with the power to license imports and exports in order to facilitate American trade and hamper that of the enemy. Approved October 6, 1917. (40 Stat. 411-426)

Declaration of a State of War With Austria-Hungary. Proclaimed that a state of war existed with Austria-Hungary. Approved December 11, 1917. (40 Stat. 1729-1733)

Eighteenth Amendment. Prohibited the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquor within or into the United States. Approved December 19, 1917. Ratified by the requisite number of States January 16, 1919. (40 Stat. 1050)

Daylight Standard Time Act. Established the standard time of the United States by dividing the continental United States into four time zones. Also provided that clocks would be advanced one hour from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October in order to conserve electric energy. Approved March 19, 1918. (40 Stat. 450-451)

Railroad Control Act. Placed the management of all railroads under the Government, with a Director General and regional directors. Approved March 21, 1918. (40 Stat. 451-458)

War Finance Corporation Act. Created a War Finance Corporation with capital stock of \$500,000,000 and power to issue \$3,000,000,000 in bonds to lend to banks to cover loans made in assisting war industries, and to persons and corporations engaged in business necessary to the prosecution of the war. Approved April 5, 1918. (40 Stat. 506-515)

Webb-Pomerene Export Trade Act. Provided that exporters might organize associations for export trade without becoming liable for violation of the antitrust laws. Approved April 10, 1918. (40 Stat. 516-518)

Sabotage Act. Provided for the punishment of persons guilty of disrupting or attempting to disrupt any activity related to national defense. Approved April 20, 1918. (40 Stat. 533-534)

Sedition Act. Established severe penalties for making or conveying false statements interfering with the prosecution of the war; for willfully uttering, printing, writing, or publishing any disloyal, profane, scurrilous or abusive language about our form of Government, the Constitution, and the armed forces of the United States; and for advocating, teaching, defending or suggesting such action. Approved May 16, 1918. (40 Stat. 553-554)

Overman Act. Empowered the President to coordinate and consolidate executive bureaus, agencies, and offices; and to create new agencies, alter existing ones, and transfer their power for the duration of the war. Approved May 20, 1918. (40 Stat. 556-557)

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Implemented the 1916 Convention between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds and established responsibility for protection of the international migratory bird resources. Approved July 3, 1918. (40 Stat. 755-757)

SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS
May 19, 1919-March 3, 1921
(Second Administration of Woodrow Wilson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A second constitutional amendment approved by Congress in 1919, the Nineteenth, granted voting rights to women. This amendment became part of the Constitution in August 1920. The Volstead Prohibition Act, of October 1919, provided the enforcement apparatus for the Eighteenth Amendment.

An equally emotional struggle ensued on July 10, 1919, when the Treaty of Versailles came before the Senate. Even a month-long nationwide tour by the exhausted and ailing Woodrow Wilson, however, failed to secure the required two-thirds majority in the Senate.

Seeking to revive the self-sufficiency of the U.S. railroad and shipping industries, both of which had operated under Federal supervision during World War I, Congress passed the Esch-Cummins Transportation Act of February 1920, and the Jones Merchant Marine Act of June 1920.

Also in 1920, Congress created a Federal Power Commission to regulate water power reserves on public lands and navigable streams, and provide that oil and gas deposits would henceforth be leased with royalties being paid to the Federal government.

MAJOR ACTS

Nineteenth Amendment. Amended the Constitution by extending the right of suffrage to women. Approved June 5, 1919. Ratified by the requisite number of States August 26, 1920. (41 Stat. 362)

National Prohibition Act (Volstead Act). Placed responsibility for enforcement of the 18th amendment with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Defined intoxicating beverages as those contain more than 1/2 of 1 percent of alcohol, and regulated its manufacturing and sale for industrial, medicinal, and sacramental purposes. Approved October 28, 1919. (41 Stat. 305-323)

Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. Provided that deposits of coal, phosphate, oil, oil shale, and sodium could be acquired through a leasing system, rather than by securing a patent with royalty being paid to the United States as landowner. Approved February 25, 1920. (41 Stat. 437-451)

Esch-Cummins Transportation Act. Created a Railroad Labor Board for the adjustment of labor disputes. Returned the railroads from Federal to private control, widened the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission as they applied to the railroad industry, and exempted railroads from antitrust laws. Approved February 28, 1920. (41 Stat. 456-499)

Jones Merchant Marine Act. Repealed emergency war legislation relating to U. S. shipping, reorganized the U.S. Shipping Board and extended its life, and authorized the sale of government-built ships to private operators, the proceeds up to \$25 million to be used for loans to private owners for the construction of new craft. Approved June 5, 1920. (41 Stat. 988-1008)

Federal Water Power Act. Created a Federal Power Commission authorized to regulate waterways on public lands and navigable streams, and to license the use of dam sites for generation of electric power. Also empowered the Commission with authority to issue licenses, limited to fifty years, for the construction and operation of facilities for improving navigation and developing and utilizing power. Approved June 10, 1920. (41 Stat. 1063-1077)

SIXTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
April 11, 1921-March 3, 1923
(Administration of Warren G. Harding)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1919, the Senate rejected Wilson's League of Nations, and the following year the Nation bid farewell to reform as it elected Warren G. Harding on his promise to return to "normalcy." Harding was to serve only two-and-a-half years as President, dying of a heart attack at San Francisco, August 2, 1923.

Harding's brief tenure as President was marked by increased tariffs and decreasing immigration. The First Immigration Quota Act of May 1921 restricted the immigration for any nationality to 3 percent of the persons of that nationality living in the United States in 1910. The Fordney-McCumber Tariff of September 1922 revived high protective tariffs.

These acts, and numerous others approved by Congress during this period, were at least in part aimed at fighting the postwar depression which took its toll upon the entire national economy, causing banks to foreclose on thousands of mortgages, closing stores and factories, and extending unemployment throughout many parts of the country. Acting in the interest of the farm States, Congressmen from rural areas banded together to create the "Farm Bloc," representing agricultural interests and working for farm relief legislation. Farm Bloc activity (with which President Harding acted in full cooperation) produced passage of the Packers and Stockyards Act, the Grain Futures Trading Act, the Capper-Volstead Co-operative Marketing Act, and the Agricultural Credits Act.

To attend to the needs of thousands of veterans of the war, a Veterans Bureau was established. In response to growing demands for public health services, Congress passed the Sheppard-Towner Act, providing for Federal contributions to State health plans relating to maternity and infancy. The National Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 marked the first step in the reform of the national budget. With the enactment of the Cable Act, married women were granted citizenship independent of their husbands' status.

Meanwhile, the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armaments met in Washington, November 12, 1921-February 6, 1922, for the purpose of adjusting the international problems of the Pacific Ocean and Eastern Asia in accordance with a schedule of limitations of naval armaments. This conference produced nine treaties, the most important of which were the Four-Power Treaty, the Five-Power Naval Limitation Treaty, and the Nine-Power Treaty. These treaties, were subsequently approved by the Senate in March 1922.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

First Immigration Quota Act. Established a policy whereby the number of aliens of any nationality to be admitted yearly under immigration laws should be limited to 3 percent of the number of persons of that nationality listed in the 1910 census, provided that not more than 20 percent of any nationality admissible during any one year should be admitted during any single month, and set a total limit of 357,803 immigrants per year. Approved May 19, 1921. (42 Stat. 5-7)

National Budget and Accounting Act. Created a Budget Bureau in the Treasury Department, with a director appointed by the President, to formulate and oversee budget expenditures. Also established a General Accounting Office, under the Comptroller General of the U. S., for carrying out an independent audit of Government accounts. Approved June 10, 1921. (42 Stat. 20-27)

Establishment of Veterans' Bureau. Established the Veterans' Bureau as an independent agency, directly responsible to the President, for assuming the administration of all forms of veterans' relief. Approved August 9, 1921. (42 Stat. 147-157)

Packers and Stockyards Act. Prohibited unfair and discriminatory practices, the manipulation and control of prices, of other devices creating a monopoly and acting in restraint of trade, relative to the sale of livestock, livestock products, poultry, and dairy products. Approved August 15, 1921. (42 Stat. 159-169)

Future Trading Act. Designed to regulate all contract markets authorized to sell grain for future delivery, in order to prevent market manipulation and monopoly practices. Discouraged speculative transactions by levying a prohibitive tax on grain sold for future delivery except by owners or certain authorized contract markets. Approved August 24, 1921. (42 Stat. 187-191) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Hill v. Wallace, 259 U.S. 44 (1922), and in Trusler v. Crooks, 269 U.S. 475 (1926).

Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act. Extended Federal aid to State programs looking to promote the welfare and hygiene of maternity and infancy. Authorized an annual appropriation of 1 million for a period of five years. Approved November 23, 1921. (42 Stat. 224-226)

Capper-Volstead Cooperative Marketing Act. Authorized agricultural associations and cooperatives, and exempted them under anti-trust laws to allow cooperative buying and selling by farmers. Approved February 18, 1922. (42 Stat. 388-389)

Four-Power Pacific Treaty. Abrogated the Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902 and provided that the United States, Great Britain, France, and Japan would respect each other's insular possessions in the Pacific. Concluded December 13, 1921. Approved by the Senate March 24, 1922. (43 Stat. 1646-1651)

Five-Power Naval Limitation Treaty. Provided that no new capital ships (defined as craft in excess of 10,000 tons with guns larger than 8-inch) would be built by the signatories during the next ten years, and established a capital ship ratio of 5 each for the United States and Great Britain, 3 for Japan, and 1.6 for France and Italy. Concluded February 6, 1922. Approved by the Senate March 29, 1922. (43 Stat. 1655-1685)

Nine-Power Treaty. Expressed agreement between the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Belgium, Holland, Portugal, and China to respect the "sovereignty, the independence, and the territorial, and administrative integrity" of China and to maintain the principle of the open door. Concluded February 6, 1922. Approved by the Senate March 30, 1922. (44 Stat. 2113-2121)

Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act. Raised rates on agricultural raw materials from 38 percent to 49 percent and on other commodities from 31 percent to 34 percent. Special protection was given to sugar and textile interests. Under the Act the President was authorized to change individual tariff rates on the recommendation of the Tariff Commission (established in 1916), but such changes were limited to 50 percent of the congressional rates. Approved September 21, 1922. (42 Stat. 858-990)

Cable Act. Granted married women U.S. citizenship independent of their husbands' status. Provided that women would no longer lose their citizenship if they married aliens or gain citizenship by marriage to an American citizen. Approved September 22, 1922. (42 Stat 1021-1022)

Agricultural Credits Act. Authorized the creation of 12 Intermediate Credit banks, one for each Federal Reserve Bank District, each having capital of \$5 million subscribed by the Government, and authorized to make loans (ranging from 6 months to 3 years) on land, farmer's crops, livestock, personal notes, and equipment. Also provided for creation of agricultural credit corporations by private interests. Approved March 4, 1923. (42 Stat. 1454-1482)

SIXTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS
December 3, 1923-March 3, 1925
(First Administration of Calvin Coolidge)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

At 2:47 a.m., on August 3, 1923, Vice President Calvin Coolidge assumed the Presidency and became the only Chief Executive to have the oath of office administered by his father, a notary public. In his first annual message of December 6, Coolidge called for reorganization and consolidation of the U.S. Foreign Service, revision of the laws affecting the Veterans Bureau, and amendment of the Immigration Act of 1921, to limit more drastically the entrance of certain nationalities. Within less than a year, all of these proposals were enacted into law.

Coolidge vetoed the Soldier's Bonus Bill in May 1924, only to have his veto overridden by the Congress. With this legislation the campaign by the Nation's veterans organizations for the payment of a bonus to ex-servicemen compensating them for the "loss" of wages they theoretically would have received had they remained civilians was fulfilled. With the Indian Citizenship Act of June 1924, Congress granted citizenship to non-citizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States. The Federal Corrupt Practices Act, the basic campaign financing law which would remain in effect until 1971, was signed into law the following February 25.

Approval of the Clarke-McNary Act of June 1924 expanded Federal assistance in protecting both public and private forest producing lands from fire and in producing seedlings for future forests. Also in June, Congress submitted the proposed Child Labor Amendment to the States for ratification, but was never able to gain the required two-thirds approval needed for it to become part of the Constitution.

MAJOR ACTS

Soldiers' Bonus Bill. Authorized payment of adjusted compensation to all veterans of World War I who held the rank of captain and below a bonus of \$1.25 for each day of overseas service and \$1.00 for each day of stateside service. The bonus was to be made in the form of a 20-year endowment policy on which ex-servicemen might borrow from the Government up to 25 percent of its full value. Approved May 19 1924. (43 Stat. 121-131)

Rogers Foreign Service Act. Reorganized and consolidated the diplomatic and consular services and provided for initial appointment after examination, a period of probation, and promotion on merit. Approved May 24, 1924. (43 Stat. 140-146)

Immigration Quota Act. Lowered the annual immigration quota of each nationality to 2 percent, to be based on the 1890 census, and completely excluded Japanese immigration. Also provided that only 150,000 immigrants should be admitted in any one year. Approved May 26, 1924. (43 Stat. 153-169)

Native-born American Indians Made Citizens. Conferred U.S. citizenship on all non-citizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States. Approved June 2, 1924. (43 Stat. 253)

Proposed Child Labor Amendment. Sought to achieve uniformity of child labor standards throughout the Nation. Gave Congress the power "to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age." Approved June 2, 1924. (43 Stat. 670) Has not been ratified by the requisite number of States.

World War Veterans' Act of 1924. Provided for the decentralization of the activities of the Veterans Bureau by establishing regional offices. Consolidated, codified, revised, and reenacted the laws affecting the establishment of the Veterans' Bureau, and administration of the War Risk Insurance Act and the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. Approved June 7, 1924. (43 Stat. 607-630)

Clarke-McNary Reforestation Act. Expanded the Weeks Act of 1911 by allowing for the purchase of lands needed for the production of timber and provided for agreements with States to help pay the costs of protecting State-owned and private forest lands against fire. Provided for Federal cooperation with the States in producing and distributing forest-tree seedlings for farms and woodlands. Also gave a strong impetus to the establishment of State forestry agencies. Approved June 7, 1924. (43 Stat. 653-656)

Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925. Set a limit on campaign expenditures (unless a State law prescribed a lower amount) at \$10,000 for individuals seeking a seat in the U.S. Senate and \$2,500 for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives; or an amount equal to three cents for each vote cast in the proceeding election for the office sought, but no more than \$25,000 for the Senate and \$5,000 for the House. Approved February 28, 1925. (43 Stat. 1070-1074)

SIXTY-NINTH CONGRESS
December 7, 1925-March 3, 1927
(Second Administration of Calvin Coolidge)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Coolidge's fiscal program, as conceived by Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon, was set forth in the Revenue Act of 1926, which reduced personal income and inheritance taxes and abolished a wide variety of excise import fees.

One of the lingering issues of the immediate post-war period which confronted the Coolidge Administration was how to remove once and for all governmental control over the Nation's privately owned railroads. The most immediate problem concerned the railroads which Congress had placed under Government control in March 1918. Two years later, the railroads returned to private operation, but only after some guarantees that the advantages of unified operation, achieved under Government control, would be retained.

When the Railway Labor Board, established under the Transportation Act of 1920, proved ineffective as a mediating force in coping with the railway shopmen's strike of 1922, Congress replaced it through the Railway Labor Act of 1926 with the boards of adjustment, mediation, and arbitration with which the Federal Government had only the most tenuous connection.

In an abrupt shift, Congress also in 1926 approved the Air Commerce Act, placing responsibility for safety in civil aviation under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government for the first time. Less than a year later, the Federal Radio Commission was established with the power to license stations, assign wave-lengths, and supervise policies.

With the passage of the Public Buildings Act of 1926, Congress provided an authorization which continued to be used until 1959 for the construction and renovation of public buildings.

MAJOR ACTS

Revenue Act of 1926. Reduced personal income and inheritance taxes, abolished a wide variety of excise taxes, and increased the tax on corporations. Also repealed the publicity clause relating to income tax returns. Approved February 26, 1926. (44 Stat. 9-131) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Heiner v. Donnan, 285 U.S. 312 (1932).

Railway Labor Act. Abolished the Railroad Labor Board established under the Transportation Act of 1920 and set up a new agency known as the Board of Mediation. Substituted the principle of mediation for compulsory arbitration of disputes between railroad employers and employees. Provision made for appointment of an emergency board by the President to investigate and report in cases of unadjusted disputes. Approved May 20, 1926. (44 Stat. 577-587)

Air Commerce Act. Vested extensive powers over commercial aviation in an Air Commerce Bureau under the Secretary of Commerce, with jurisdiction over the safety of civil aviation, including licensing of aircraft and pilots. Approved May 20, 1926. (44 Stat. 568-576)

Public Buildings Act. Authorized an expenditure of \$165 million over a five year period for construction of Federal buildings, \$50 million of which was to be expended in the District of Columbia. Approved May 25, 1926. (44 Stat. 630-635)

Radio Control Act. Created the Federal Radio Commission (subsequently the Federal Communications Commission) of five members appointed by the President with power to make regulations and to issue and revoke licenses. Approved February 23, 1927. (44 Stat. 1162-1174)

SEVENTIETH CONGRESS
December 5, 1927-March 3, 1929
(Second Administration of Calvin Coolidge)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ruinous floods in the spring of 1928 resulted in passage of the Flood Control Act that May. Disturbed by the Nation's languishing merchant marine, Congress passed the Jones-White Act of 1928, which increased mail subsidies, appropriated \$250 million for construction loans, and authorized the sale of the remaining Government-owned merchant vessels. This Act permitted private companies to obtain first-class ships at about one-tenth of their original cost and underwrote the construction of 68 new vessels.

Sixty-two nations eventually signed the Kellogg-Briand Pact drafted in Paris in August 1927, outlawing war as "an instrument of national policy." Owing to overwhelming public support and that the fact that the Pact in no way endangered U.S. isolationism, the Senate approved it on January 15, 1929. It was the most thoroughgoing commitment to peace that the great powers had ever made.

In other significant actions, the Seventieth Congress in May 1928 passed the McSweeney-McNary Act providing for the first nationwide survey of the Nation's forest reserves, and the following February formally accepted the seven Pacific islands comprising American Samoa which had originally been ceded to the United States in 1900 and 1904 by the native chiefs.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Flood Control Act. Appropriated \$325 million for flood control in the Mississippi Valley over a 10-year period. Approved May 15, 1928. (45 Stat. 534-539)

Jones-White Merchant Marine Act. Increased from \$125 million to \$250 million a ship construction loan fund from which private builders could borrow up to three-quarters of the cost of constructing, reconditioning, and remodeling a vessel. Also permitted sale of Government-owned craft at low prices and liberalized long-term mail-carrying contracts. Approved May 22, 1928. (45 Stat. 689-698)

McSweeney-McNary Act. Authorized a broad permanent program of research and the first comprehensive nationwide survey of forest reserves on public as well as private lands. Approved May 22, 1928. (45 Stat. 699-702)

Kellogg-Briand Pact. Renounced war as an instrument of national policy, and advocated arbitration as the appropriate means for settling international controversies. Concluded August 27, 1928. Approved by the Senate January 15, 1929. (46 Stat. 2343-2348)

Administration of American Samoa. Accepted the seven islands which comprise American Samoa as of the time they were ceded by the native chiefs in 1900 and 1904. Also stated that "until Congress shall provide for the government of such islands, all civil, judicial, and military powers shall be vested in such person or persons and shall be exercised in such a manner as the President of the United States shall direct." Approved February 20, 1929. (45 Stat. 1253)

SEVENTY-FIRST CONGRESS
April 15, 1929-March 3, 1931
(Administration of Herbert Hoover)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The lingering farm depression which had confronted the Nation since 1919 was one of dominant issues of the Presidential campaign of 1928. Fulfilling a campaign pledge, President Herbert Hoover, shortly after his inauguration summoned a special session of Congress to provide relief for the American farmer. On April 15, 1929, Congress approved the administration-sponsored Agricultural Marketing Act, establishing a Federal Farm Board with power to oversee the purchasing and selling of surplus farm commodities. The Board had not yet begun the function, however, when the Wall Street Crash of 1929 occurred, generally nullifying its endeavors.

Continuing his assault on the farm problem, Hoover, only a few hours after his first agricultural remedy had been signed into law, urged Congress to increase duties on agricultural products as a means of raising farm prices. After a fierce and complex struggle over the next three months, the Smoot-Hawley Tariff was approved, providing for the highest overall tariff in the Nation's history. Although Hoover was less than pleased with the results, and despite the strenuous objections of a number of individuals including a group of 1,028 economists who signed a petition calling for Hoover to veto it, the Smoot-Hawley Tariff was signed into law. Hoover argued that the legislation's revitalized tariff provision would resolve all the objections to its higher rates by instituting a process for their systematic reduction.

Subsequent enactments by the Seventy-first Congress provided for the creation of the Veterans Administration in July 1930, and the adoption of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem the following March.

MAJOR ACTS

Agricultural Marketing Act. Established the Federal Farm Board (of eight members and the Secretary of Agriculture) for promoting the marketing of farm commodities through agricultural cooperatives and stabilization corporations. Authorized a revolving fund of \$500 million for low interest loans to such agencies in the interest of the orderly purchasing, handling, and selling of surplus commodities. The board was also authorized to make agreements with cooperatives and stabilization corporations in order to prevent losses caused by price fluctuations. Approved June 15, 1929. (46 Stat. 11-19)

Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act. Raised import duties on imported agricultural products from 38 percent to 45 percent, providing special protection for sugar, textile, citrus fruit, and cotton, and removed many items from the free list. Also reorganized the Tariff Commission and outlined more specifically its powers and detailed procedures for its advisory functions in conducting flexible tariff, unfair trade practices, and foreign discrimination investigations, as well as in carrying out studies and preparing reports on all aspects of international trade system. Approved June 17, 1930. (46 Stat. 590-763)

Veterans' Administration Act. Consolidated all Federal functions for ex-servicemen in a single agency to be known as the Veterans Administration. Approved July 3, 1930. (46 Stat. 991-1002)

Adoption of National Anthem. Designated Francis Scott Key's "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem of the United States. Approved March 3, 1931. (46 Stat. 1508)

SEVENTY-SECOND CONGRESS
December 7, 1931-March 3, 1933
(Administration of Herbert Hoover)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Although Hoover took a series of swift and unprecedented actions to revive the Nation's economy following the stock market crash of October 1929, his efforts to right the economy proved inadequate. The most important of the Hoover proposals, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act of January 1932, authorized the RFC to lend money to railroads, banks, agricultural agencies, industry, and commerce. During the first years of its existence, the RFC came to the aid of over 7000 banks and trust companies, to the tune of \$3.5 billion. Loans to mortgage-loan companies, amounted to some \$300 million and to insurance companies another \$100 million.

Advances of some \$700 million to railroads enabled many of them to refinance their outstanding obligations and greatly improve their facilities. Loans to industry totaled over \$100 million, and to agriculture, in one form or another, \$2.5 billion. Altogether, authorizations and commitments of the RFC, including advances to other Government agencies and disbursements for relief, came to more than \$11 billion. Many of these loans, especially those extended to banks in 1932, merely put off the day of reckoning and gave little effective help to those who really needed it.

Looking for further expansion of credit, Congress passed the Glass-Steagall Act of February 27, 1932, which was designed to counteract the contraction of credit due to foreign withdrawals and the domestic hoarding of gold and currency. To extend the scope and functions of the RFC, the Relief and Construction Act, which became law on July 21, provided the basis for expending RFC funds on public works and programs looking to the relief of economic distress.

Seeking to reduce the number of mortgage foreclosures, to stimulate residential construction (thereby increasing employment), and to encourage home ownership, Congress approved the Federal Home Loan Bank Act of July 1932, creating a series of discount banks providing discount facilities to homeowners similar to those provided the commercial interests by the Federal Reserve Board.

The Seventy-second Congress also completed discussions on the Twentieth and Twenty-first Amendments to the Constitution and sent them on to the States for their approval. With the completion of the ratification process in January and December of 1933, respectively, inauguration day was changed from March 4 to January 20 and the Eighteenth (prohibition) Amendment was repealed.

MAJOR ACTS

Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act. Created a Government lending agency, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, with the authority to issue tax exempt bonds and with wide powers to extend credit. The RFC was to begin with \$500 million in capital and authorized to borrow an additional \$1.5 billion by issuing tax exempt bonds. Designed to provide emergency financing for banking institutions, life insurance companies, farm mortgage associations, building and loan corporations, railroads, and other businesses. Also was empowered to subscribe the capital for government-owned corporations. Approved January 22, 1932. (47 Stat. 5-12)

Glass-Steagall Act. Authorized the sale of \$750 million worth of the Government's huge gold supply for industrial and business needs, and allowed the Federal Reserve System more flexibility in discounting commercial paper. Approved February 27, 1932. (47 Stat. 56-57)

Twentieth Amendment (Lame Duck Amendment). Provided Congress would convene each year at noon on January 3, and that the terms of President and Vice President would end at noon on January 20. Also specified that the Vice President elect would succeed to the Presidency if the President-elect should die before being inaugurated. Approved March 2, 1932. Ratified by the requisite number of States January 23, 1933. (47 Stat. 745)

Emergency Relief and Construction Act. Extended the scope and functions of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and authorized it to incur a total indebtedness of \$3 billion and to provide \$1.5 billion in loans for the construction by State and local agencies of public works of a self-liquidating character; and to furnish \$100 million in temporary loans to States unable to finance the relief of economic distress. Approved July 21, 1932. (47 Stat. 709-724)

Federal Home Loan Bank Act. Established a 5-member Home Loan Bank Board and created a series of discount banks for home mortgages that provided for home owners a service similar to that performed for commercial interests by the Federal Reserve discount facilities. Authorized the establishment of 8 to 12 banks set up in different parts of the country with a total capital of \$125 million to discount home loans for building and loan associations, savings banks, and insurance companies. Approved July 22, 1932. (47 Stat. 725-741)

Twenty-First Amendment. Repealed the Eighteenth (prohibition) amendment to the Constitution, thereby legalizing, once again, the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic liquors everywhere in the Union except in those States, counties, and municipalities where the act was forbidden by State, county, or municipal law. Approved February 20, 1933. Ratified by the requisite number of States December 5, 1933. (47 Stat. 1625)

SEVENTY-THIRD CONGRESS
March 9, 1933-June 18, 1934
(First Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By Inauguration Day March 4, 1933, it was estimated that almost one-third of the Nation's labor force was out of work, and economic conditions had reached gravely critical proportions. Runs on banks increased alarmingly and hoarding of currency became a widespread practice. From 1930 through February 1933, a total of 5,504 banks had been shut down and by inauguration day it was estimated that almost every bank in the country was either closed or otherwise under the control of State authorities.

Upon taking office, President Roosevelt at once called a special session of Congress to which he proposed a body of legislation designed to address the economic crisis. A major feature of the initial phase of Roosevelt's "New Deal" legislative program was the Emergency Banking Relief Act, which was introduced, passed, and approved during Franklin D. Roosevelt's first week in the White House. During his first "hundred days," with the cooperation of Congress, Roosevelt was able to gain approval for a number of major pieces of legislation to remedy the Nation's ills.

Included were laws relating to the budget, taxation, unemployment relief, Federal grants to the States, agricultural subsidies, Federal supervision of investment securities, public ownership of public utilities, refinancing of home mortgages, Federal bank deposit insurance, financial reorganization of the railroads, industrial self-regulation, widespread public works, and an industrial recovery program. Simultaneously, in his "fireside chats" over the radio, Roosevelt, speaking in a warm, intimate manner, worked to bolster the confidence and morale of the American people.

In 1934, Congress passed eleven additional measures designed to help move the Nation toward a more prosperous economy. Congress was still generally willing to give the President whatever legislation he requested, but in March handed him his first defeat by overriding his veto of a bill to raise Government salaries and increase veterans' benefits. In June, Congress created the Federal Communications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission to further Federal regulation in these two important areas.

Other notable acts passed in 1934 prepared the way for independence of the Philippines, laid the foundation for a new policy towards Indians, made the National Guard a reserve component of the army, and empowered the Federal Government to control crime more strictly.

MAJOR ACTS

Emergency Banking Relief Act. Confirmed all the emergency actions taken by the President and the Secretary of the Treasury concerning national banks and Federal Reserve banks since the beginning of the Roosevelt administration, March 4, 1933. Accorded broad discretionary powers to the President over transactions in credit, currency, gold, and silver, including foreign exchange. Required the licensing of Federal Reserve banks by the Treasury Department and denied the right of operation to unlicensed Federal Reserve banks. Made it illegal to own or export gold, and authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to call in all gold and gold certificates in the country. Enlarged operations of the Federal Reserve banks, and empowered the RFC to subscribe to the preferred stock of national banks and trust companies. Approved March 9, 1933. (48 Stat. 1-7)

Economy Act. Designed to balance the budget through reductions of up to 15 percent of the salaries of Federal employees, to save \$100 million a year, reduce veterans' benefits by \$400 a year, and reorganize Government agencies with a view toward economy. Approved March 20, 1933. (48 Stat. 8-16) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Lynch v. United States, 292 U.S. 571 (1934).

Beer-Wine Revenue Act. Legalized wine, beer, lager beer, ale, and porter of 3.2 percent maximum alcoholic content by weight, or 4 percent by volume, and levied a tax of \$5.00 per barrel of 31 gallons. The Act left to the States all regulatory and control measures, especially those relating to sale and distribution, and incorporated safeguards for States whose prohibition laws stipulated a lesser alcoholic content. Approved March 22, 1933. (48 Stat. 16-20)

Civilian Conservation Corps. Authorized employment of 250,000 jobless male citizens between the ages of 18 and 25 in various projects aimed at conserving or improving the country's natural resources, such as reforestation, road construction, soil erosion, and park and recreational area improvement. Approved March 31, 1933. (48 Stat. 22-23)

Agricultural Adjustment Act. Created the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) to deal with problems of low farm prices by controlling surplus crops. This goal was accomplished by paying farmers for reduced farm production, the funds for the subsidy to be derived from levies on the processors of specified farm products. Also provided for refinancing of farm mortgages through the agency of the Federal Land Banks. Approved May 12, 1933. (48 Stat. 31-54) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in United States v. Butler, 297 U.S. 1 (1936).

Federal Emergency Relief Act. Created the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA). Authorized an appropriation of \$500 million, allotting half this amount as direct relief to the States and the balance for distribution on the basis of \$1 of Federal aid for every \$3 of State and local funds spent to relieve the poor and hungry. Approved May 12, 1933. (48 Stat. 55-58)

Tennessee Valley Authority. Established the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), an independent public corporation with a board of 3 directors to construct dams and power plants, develop rural electrification plans for flood and erosion control, build recreation areas, and help with reforestation on the Tennessee River. TVA was empowered with the right to produce, distribute, and sell electric power and nitrogen fertilizers to the industry and people of the region, and to sell explosives to the Federal Government. Approved May 18, 1933. (48 Stat. 58-72)

Federal Securities Act. Required that with certain exceptions (Federal, State, and municipal bonds; railroad securities; securities of religious, charitable, and educational bodies) all new issues were to be registered with the Federal Trade Commission by filing of sworn statements placed on file (in 1934 this function was transferred to the Securities and Exchange Commission). Approved May 27, 1933. (48 Stat. 74-95)

Gold Standard Repeal. Took the United States off the gold standard by cancelling the gold clause in all Federal and private obligations and made contracts and debts payable in legal tender. Approved June 5, 1933. (48 Stat. 112-113) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Perry v. United States, 294 U.S. 330 (1935).

National Employment System Act. Authorized a national system of employment offices, to be based on cooperation with States maintaining such agencies. Required matching of State appropriations for employment services. Approved June 6, 1933. (48 Stat. 113-117)

Home Owners' Loan Act of 1933. Created the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) with a capital stock of \$200 million and an authorized issue of \$2 billion in bonds, to refinance home mortgage debts for non-farm homeowners. Refinancing was to be accomplished by exchange of HOLC bonds for mortgages and all other obligations (up to a total of \$14,000) which were then converted into a single first mortgage. The HOLC was also empowered to furnish cash advances for taxes, repair, and maintenance up to 50 percent of appraised values on encumbered properties. Approved June 13, 1933. (48 Stat. 128-135)

Banking Act of 1933 (Glass-Steagall Act). Created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for guaranteeing individual bank deposits up to \$5,000. Extended the open-market activities of the Federal Reserve Board to enable it to prevent excessive speculation on credit; permitted branch banking; divorced deposit from investment affiliates; and widened the membership of the Federal Reserve System to include savings and industrial banks. Approved June 16, 1933. (48 Stat. 162-195)

National Industrial Recovery Act. Created the National Industrial Recovery Administration (NIRA) and formalized the fair trade codes used by many industrial and trade associations since World War I. Empowered the President to prescribe codes for industries and to make agreements or approve voluntary agreements. Actions under codes and agreements were exempt from the operations of the antitrust laws, and the courts could issue injunctions

against violators. Guaranteed the right of working men "to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing." Also set up the Public Works Administration (PWA) with the purpose of stimulating the economy through the construction of huge public works projects requiring large numbers of workers. Approved June 16, 1933. (48 Stat. 195-211) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Schechter Corp. v. United States, 295 U.S. 495, (1935).

Emergency Railroad Transportation Act. Repealed the "recapture" clause of the Transportation Act of 1920, placing railroad holding companies under the supervision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, provided for a simpler rule of rate making, and created the office of Federal Coordinator of Transportation. Approved June 16, 1933. (48 Stat. 211-221)

Federal Credit Act of 1933. Consolidated the functions of all Federal units dealing with agricultural credit under the Farm Credit Administration. Approved June 16, 1933. (48 Stat. 257-273)

Gold Reserve Act of 1934. Authorized the President to set limits for devaluation of the dollar at from 50 to 60 cents in relation to its gold content; to change the value within these limits from time to time, as deemed necessary by him; to impound in the Treasury the gold stocks held by the Federal Reserve banks; to assure to the Government any profit that might accrue to the Treasury from an increase in the value of gold; and to use part of this profit to set up a fund (the Exchange Stabilization Fund) of \$2 billion with which to stabilize the dollar. Approved January 30, 1934. (48 Stat. 337-344)

Farm Mortgage Refinancing Act. Established the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation to further alleviate the credit problems of farms by providing refinancing of farm debts at favorable terms. Approved January 31, 1934. (48 Stat. 344-349)

Civil Works Emergency Relief Act. Provided an additional appropriation to assist in implementation of the Federal Emergency Relief Act of May 12, 1933 under the Civil Works Administration. Approved February 15, 1934. (48 Stat. 351-352)

Crop Loan Act. Authorized the Farm Credit Administration to extend loans to agricultural producers in 1934 for crop production and harvesting. A fund of \$40 million was set up for this purpose. Approved February 23, 1934. (48 Stat. 354-355)

Tydings-McDuffie Philippines Independence Act. Provided for the complete independence of the Philippine Islands within ten years, contingent upon the adoption of a Philippine constitution, and establishment of a form of government for the Philippine Islands. Approved March 24, 1934. (48 Stat. 456-465)

Vinson Naval Parity Act. Provided for the construction of a full treaty-strength U. S. Navy within the limits of the Five-Power Naval Limitation Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Limitation Treaty of 1930. Approved March 27, 1934. (48 Stat. 503-505)

Independent Offices Appropriation Act. Restored the cuts made under the Economy Act of 1933; increased salaries of Government workers by \$125 million. The bill was vetoed by the President but Congress overrode the veto. Approved March 28, 1934. (48 Stat. 509-527)

Jones-Connally Farm Relief Act. Extended the list of enumerated basic agricultural commodities subject to the Agricultural Adjustment Act, adding barley, flax, peanuts, grain, sorghums, rye, and beef and dairy cattle. Approved April 7, 1934. (48 Stat. 528)

Bankhead Cotton Control Act. Provided for compulsory reduction of surplus cotton crops through the licensing of individual producers who in turn received benefit payments. A tax of not less than 5 cents a pound was authorized for production in excess of stipulated quotas. Approved April 21, 1934. (48 Stat. 598-607)

Home Owners' Loan Act of 1934. Guaranteed the principle and interest of the \$2 billion in bonds authorized for the refinancing of home mortgages. From the funds made available as a result of the guarantee, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) was enabled to extend further assistance for the repair and maintenance and to provide funds to savings and loan associations operating under Federal sponsorship. Approved April 27, 1934. (48 Stat. 643-647) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Hopkins Savings Association v. Cleary, 296 U.S. 315 (1935).

Crime Control Acts. Empowered the Federal Government, through a series of six new laws, to punish persons assaulting, resisting, killing, or interfering with Federal agents performing their law-enforcement duties and authorizing the death penalty for kidnappers taking their victims across State lines. Approved May 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 780-783)

Municipal Bankruptcy Act. Established a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States. Permitted cities and other local government units to petition the Federal courts for the ensuing 2 years to approve plans for readjusting their debt burden, providing that holders of 51 percent of outstanding obligations give their consent. Approved May 24, 1934. (48 Stat. 798-803) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Ashton v. Cameron County Dist., 298 U.S. 513 (1936).

Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Provided for Federal regulation of the operation of exchanges dealing in securities and in the correction of unfair practices in the securities markets. Established the Securities and Exchange Commission, and authorized that unit to license stock exchanges. Also made trading in securities subject to the regulation of the SEC and prohibited price manipulation. Empowered the Federal Reserve Board to regulate the use of credit in financing trading in securities by prescribing regulations governing margin requirements—a move designed to curb speculation. Approved June 6, 1934. (48 Stat. 881-909)

National Guard Act. Made the National Guard a part of the Army of the United States in time of war or during a national emergency declared by Congress. Approved June 15, 1934. (48 Stat. 153-162)

Corporate Bankruptcy Act. Permitted the reorganization of corporations, providing that at least two-thirds of their creditors consented, and that a petition for reorganization might be filed in court by a creditor or stockholder if approved by at least one fourth of other stockholders (10 percent where the corporation was not insolvent, but unable to meet maturing obligations). An amendment to the Bankruptcy Act. Approved June 7, 1934. (48 Stat. 911-925)

Farm Mortgage Foreclosure Act. Authorized the Land Bank Commissioner (formerly the Farm Loan Commissioner) to extend loans to enable the recovery of farm properties owned by them prior to foreclosure. Approved June 11, 1934. (48 Stat. 929)

Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. Authorized the President to enter into agreements with other nations for the reduction of specific duties by as much as 50 percent if they agree to a similar reduction in tariffs against the United States. Congressional approval was not to be required and the action would be based on the unconditional most-favored-nation principle. Approved June 12, 1934. (48 Stat. 943-945)

Indian Reorganization Act. Laid the foundation for a new policy towards Indians, much of which is still in effect. Rendered the Dawes Act obsolete by prohibiting further allotment of Indian lands to individuals, while providing the means for consolidating reservation life and developing tribal government. Also terminated trust periods of restricting alienability of Indian lands; appropriated \$2 million for the purchase of lands for tribes; directed the Secretary of Interior to issue conservation regulations to prevent erosion, deforestation, and overgrazing on Indian lands; authorized establishment of a revolving credit fund; authorized annual appropriations not to exceed \$25,000 for education loans; and provided that qualified Indians receive employment preference in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Approved June 18, 1934. (48 Stat. 984-988)

Communications Act of 1934. Established the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to regulate telegraph, cable and radio communications, previously the responsibility of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Approved June 19, 1934. (48 Stat. 1064-1105)

Silver Purchase Act of 1934. Empowered the President to increase the monetary value of the Treasury's silver holdings until they reached one-third of the value of its gold stocks; to nationalize silver stocks and purchases of domestic and foreign silver; and to impose a 50 percent profits tax on certain transfers of silver in order to preclude a windfall for silver speculators. Approved June 19, 1934. (48 Stat. 1178-1181)

Crosser-Dill Railway Labor Act. Established a National Railroad Adjustment Board, and upheld the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing. Approved June 21, 1934. (48 Stat. 1185-1197)

National Housing Act. Created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) for the purpose of insuring loans made by banks, trust companies, building and loan associations, and other private lending institutions for new construction, repairs, alterations, and improvements. Also increased the borrowing power of the Home Owners Loan Corporation to \$3 billion. Approved June 27, 1934. (48 Stat. 1246-1265)

Tobacco Control Act. Authorized a compulsory production quota system for tobacco planters who did not agree to crop reduction. Continued in a modified form in the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. Approved June 28, 1934. (48 Stat. 1275-1281)

Frazier-Lemke Farm Bankruptcy Act. Provided the means whereby farmers could repurchase their properties at a newly appraised value with small annual payments, at an interest rate of 1 percent, distributed over a 6-year period. In the event creditors opposed such a settlement, farmers would be allowed to retain possession on fair and reasonable terms for 5 years, during which time bankruptcy proceedings were suspended. Approved June 28, 1934. (48 Stat. 1289-1291) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Louisville Bank v. Radford, 295 U.S. 555 (1935).

SEVENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS
January 3, 1935-June 20, 1936
(First Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

When the Seventy-fourth Congress assembled in January 1935, Roosevelt proposed a legislative program of social reform part of which was embodied in the Social Security Act enacted in August. Meanwhile, Congress continued its short-term anti-depression activities. In April, it created the Works Progress Administration and the Soil Conservation Service, and in July, the National Labor Relations Board.

That August, amidst a mountain of proposals, six major new laws (besides the Social Security Act) were enacted. These provided for the reorganization of the Federal Reserve Board, elimination of monopolies in public utilities, a 3-year farm mortgage moratorium for debt-ridden farmers, establishment of a railroad retirement system, an increase in taxes on incomes over \$50,000, and creation of the Bituminous Coal Labor Board and National Bituminous Coal Commission.

After the Administration's Agricultural Adjustment Administration was declared unconstitutional on January 6, 1936, Congress quickly returned with a new idea on how to achieve crop limitation. The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act achieved its goal not by contracting with the farmers to restrict their agricultural output as the AAA had, but instead subsidized farmers who agreed to plant their fields with soil-conserving crops. In May, statutory authorization was approved which provided for the creation of a Rural Electrification Administration.

Seeking to abolish monopolistic price discrimination, to achieve more equitable subsidies for American's merchant marine, and provide a minimum wage and hour standard for contractors dealing with the Government, Congress enacted legislation to achieve these ends during late June.

Congress also in June 1936 approved the first Organic Act for the Virgin Islands which provided for limited self-government.

MAJOR ACTS

Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. Signaled the withdrawal of the Federal Government from the arena of direct relief, which was left to the States and local communities, and provided for the establishment of a large-scale national work program for the jobless employables, who were required to meet a means test in order to qualify for work relief. Also

established the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as the major agency of the program, which, beginning in 1939, was renamed the Works Projects Administration. Approved April 8, 1935. (49 Stat. 115-119)

Soil Conservation Act. Established the Soil Conservation Service within the Department of Agriculture for the control and prevention of soil erosion. Approved April 27, 1935. (49 Stat. 163-164)

Wagner-Connery National Labor Relations Act. Created a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) empowered with the authority to determine appropriate collective bargaining units subject to elections it supervised at the request of the workers, to certify the duly chosen trade union, to receive testimony about unfair employer practices, and to issue cease and desist orders. Approved July 5, 1935. (49 Stat. 449-457)

Motor Carrier Act. Placed buses engaged in interstate commerce under the authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which was empowered to regulate finances, labor, and minimum and maximum rates. Approved August 9, 1935. (49 Stat. 543-567)

Social Security Act. Instituted a national system of social insurance, including old age pensions. Created the Social Security Board as a general administrative agency and provided for the following: establishment of a cooperative Federal-State system of unemployment compensation; a tax for old-age and survivors' insurance to be levied in equal amounts upon all employers and employees (with specified exceptions); authorized grants to States to help in meeting the cost of old-age pensions allowed under State law; authorized grants to the States to assist in relief of the destitute, blind, homeless, dependent and delinquent children, and in services such as public health, vocational rehabilitation, and maternity and infant care. Approved August 14, 1935. (49 Stat. 620-648)

Banking Act of 1935. Amended the deposit insurance provisions of the Banking Act of 1933. Provided for a reorganization of the Federal Reserve Board and changed the name of that body to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Certain changes were also made in the management of the Federal Reserve Banks. Powers over discount and open market operations of the Federal Reserve banks were increased and centralized in the Board of Governors, and the discount base was materially broadened. Approved August 23, 1935. (49 Stat. 684-723)

Wheeler-Rayburn Public Utility Holding Company Act. Granted authority to the Federal Power Commission and the Federal Trade Commission to regulate interstate transmission of electric power and gas. Charged the Securities and Exchange Commission with supervising the financial transactions of such companies; restricted electric and gas holding companies to operations as single and concentrated systems confined to a single acre. Approved August 26, 1935. (49 Stat. 803-863)

Farm Mortgage Moratorium Act. Provided a 3-year moratorium against seizure for farmers who payed the mortgagee a rental fixed by the courts. Passed following the Supreme Court decision invalidating the Federal Farm Bankruptcy Act of 1934. Approved August 28, 1935. (49 Stat. 942-945)

Wagner-Crosser Railroad Retirement Act. Established a retirement system for all railroad employees except those who worked on street, interurban, or suburban electric railways. Created a 3-member Railroad Retirement Board appointed by the President to administer the law. Approved August 29, 1935. (49 Stat. 967-974)

Bituminous Coal Conservation Act. Created the Bituminous Coal Labor Board and the National Bituminous Coal Commission to administer production quota, price-fixing, and labor regulations based on the NRA soft coal code. Approved August 30, 1935. (49 Stat. 991-1011) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Carter v. Carter Coal Co., 298 U.S. 238 (1936).

Revenue Act of 1935. Increased surtax rate on individual incomes over \$50,000 and individual estates of decendants over \$40,000. Taxes on individual incomes above \$1 million were graduated to 75 percent of income in excess of \$5 million. Estate and gift tax rates increased. Tax rates on small corporations lowered from 13 percent to 12.5 percent; rates on all corporation incomes above \$50,000 raised to 15 percent; additional taxes of 6 percent levied on profits in excess of 10 percent, graduated to 12 percent on profits in excess of 15 percent. Approved August 30, 1935. (49 Stat. 1014-1028)

Neutrality Act. Prohibited the export of arms, ammunition, and implements of war to belligerent countries, the transportation of arms, ammunition, and implements of war by vessels of the United States for the use of belligerent states; and provided for the licensing and registration of persons engaged in the business of manufacturing, exporting, or importing arms, ammunition, and implements of war; and restricting travel by American citizens on belligerent ships in wartime. Approved August 31, 1935. (49 Stat. 1081-1085)

Adjusted Compensation Act. Authorized the issuance of 9-year interest-bearing bonds convertible into cash at any time. Approved January 27, 1936. (49 Stat. 1099-1102)

Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. Designed to achieve crop limitation, which was ended when the Agricultural Adjustment Administration was declared unconstitutional on January 6, 1936. Achieved this goal not by contracting with farmers to restrict their agricultural output, but by subsidizing farmers who agreed to plant part of their lands with soil-conserving crops, such as alfalfa, rather than with more marketable staples, such as wheat, corn or cotton. Approved February 29, 1936. (49 Stat. 1148-1152)

Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Provided statutory authorization for creation of a Rural Electrification Administration (initially established by an Executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on May 11, 1935) empowered to make loans to electrical cooperatives and nonprofit organizations engaged in bringing power and lights to rural localities. Approved May 20, 1936. (49 Stat. 1363-1367)

Federal Anti-Price Discrimination Act. Prohibited large companies from setting prices so low that smaller competition, unable to sustain the temporary loss, was driven out of business. Aimed primarily at chain stores engaged in interstate commerce. Empowered FTC to abolish price discrimination tending to promote monopoly or reduce competition. Approved June 19, 1936. (49 Stat. 1526-1528)

Revenue Act of 1936. Included among its provisions an undistributed profits tax on corporate income that added to the normal corporation income tax a scale of surtaxes ranging from 7 percent to 27 percent. Approved June 22, 1936. (49 Stat. 1648-1756)

Virgin Islands Organic Act. Provided for limited self-government for the Virgin Islands through an elected legislature composed of two municipal councils, one from the island of St. Croix and one from the islands of St. John and St. Thomas. Required that the naval governor obtain the approval of the municipal councils before making local government appointments. Also provided that the local government would retain the Federal income taxes for local use. Islands were to receive direct appropriations annually from the Federal Government. Approved June 22, 1936. ((49 Stat. 1807-1877)

Merchant Marine Act of 1936. Dissolved the United States Shipping Board Merchant Fleet Corporation and transferred all records to the United States Maritime Commission, an independent regulatory agency empowered to carry out a program to develop an American merchant marine through governmental aid. Also eliminated subsidies in the form of ocean mail contractors and provided instead outright subsidies based on differentials between foreign and domestic operating and construction costs. Other provisions of the Act related to labor standards for seamen. Approved June 29, 1936. (49 Stat. 1985-2017) With passage of the Maritime Act of 1981, the Maritime Administration of the Department of Commerce was transferred to the Department of Transportation. Approved August 6, 1981. (95 Stat. 151)

Walsh-Healey Government Contracts Act. Provided prevailing minimum wage and maximum hours standards of 8 hour days and 40 hour weeks for all persons employed by contractors dealing with United State Government, and restricted use of child labor. Approved June 30, 1935. (49 Stat. 2036-2040)

SEVENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS
January 5, 1937-June 16, 1938
(Second Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Frustrated by the havoc the Supreme Court had worked in declaring seven major New Deal measures unconstitutional in 1935 and 1936, Roosevelt was determined to find constitutional sanctions for what the Nation required. The solution he arrived at was submitted to a startled Congress February 5, 1937. The declared objective of Roosevelt's plan was to ease the work-load and increase the efficiency of the Court by increasing its membership from 9 to 15, adding one new Justice for each incumbent Justice past the age of 70 who would not retire. The plan was widely seen as an attempt to weight the Court in favor of Administration policies.

Roosevelt's proposal to "pack" the Court aroused widespread and bitter debate. Realizing that a majority in Congress were against the plan, the President took his case to the people in his radio "fireside" chats. The ensuing confrontation brought into the open a break in domestic policy among Democrats, and enabled Republicans and conservative Democrats to block other Administration-sponsored legislation. Although Roosevelt's attempt to reorganized the Federal judiciary failed, he was able to fill 7 vacancies on the court within the next four years. Meanwhile, during April and May, the Court in a marked shift in attitude upheld a number of New Deal measures, including the National Labor Relations Act, the Social Security Act, and the Farm Mortgage Act.

Several major pieces of domestic legislation immediately followed, including reenactment of the Guffey-Snyder Bituminous Coal Act of 1935 (with the exception of a wages and hours clause which had been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court), and amendment of the antitrust laws in such manner as to alleviate pricing problems for certain products affected by certain interstate commerce laws. In the Revenue Act of 1937, Congress sought to eliminate income tax loopholes. With the Wagner-Steagall National Housing Act, it established a U.S. Housing Authority to rid the country of substandard housing conditions.

With the enactment of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937, a Farm Security Administration was established to cope with the steady decline in U.S. farm ownership and the rise of tenancy and sharecropping. Also in 1937, Congress provided Federal aid for the first time for wildlife restoration work.

Enactment of the Agricultural Adjustment Act a year later, established a system for eliminating annual grain surpluses, while the Revenue Act of 1938 was geared to demands of the U.S. business community. Although sentiment in the United States continued to be strongly isolationist, Congress decided in May 1938 to approve a Naval Expansion Act providing more than \$1 billion to build a "two ocean" navy.

Seeking to determine the exact effect of monopolies on American society, Congress authorized a Temporary National Economic Committee to study the question. Shifting its attention to other matters, Congress approved the Wheeler-Lea Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, broadened the powers of the Federal Trade Commission; and established a minimum wage and a maximum work week with the Fair Labor Standards Act of June 1938.

MAJOR ACTS

Guffey-Vinson Bituminous Coal Act. Reenacted all the chief provisions of the unconstitutional Guffey-Snyder Act of 1935 with the exception of the wages-and-hours clause. Authorized the promulgation of a new code of fair competition for the bituminous coal industry, placed the output of soft coal under Federal regulation, laid a revenue tax of one cent a ton on soft coal, and imposed on noncode producers a penalty tax of 19.5 percent of the sales price. Approved April 26, 1937. (50 Stat. 72-94)

Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. Established a Farm Security Administration to stop the decline in farm ownership by providing low-interest 40-year mortgages to sharecroppers and others who would ordinarily not be able to afford a farm. Also authorized rehabilitation loans for operating expenses and educational assistance. Approved July 22, 1937. (50 Stat. 522-533)

Miller-Tydings Enabling Act. Amended Federal antitrust laws to legalize contracts made by producers or distributors for the resale price maintenance of branded nationally advertised goods traded in interstate commerce in States where such contracts, authorized by State laws, were illegal under existing Federal laws. Approved August 17, 1937. (50 Stat. 693-694)

Revenue Act of 1937. Closed loopholes in income tax laws which permitted evasion of tax payments. Approved August 26, 1937. (50 Stat. 813-831)

Wagner-Steagall National Housing Act. Created the U.S. Housing Authority under the Department of the Interior, which was authorized to extend low-interest 60-year loans to local public agencies meeting at least 10 percent of the cost of lowcost slum clearance and housing projects, and to grant subsidies for setting rents geared to low-income levels in areas where local agencies provided an amount equal up to 25 percent of the Federal grant. Approved September 1, 1937. (50 Stat. 888-899)

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Roberston Act). Provided Federal aid to States for game and non-game wildlife restoration work, and for the development of comprehensive fish and wildlife management plans. Approved September 2, 1937. (50 Stat. 917-919)

Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. Superseded the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936 and revived the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 in modified form. Empowered the Secretary of Agriculture to fix a marketing quota whenever it was determined that the surplus of any export farm commodity was great enough to threaten the price level. Authorized acreage allotments to each grower after two-thirds of the farmers had by referendum expressed their approval of the marketing quota. Authorized the Government to lend money to farmers against surplus crops and to store these crops until they could be sold in a year when production was down and prices up. This system, dubbed the "ever-normal granary," and was intended to benefit not only farmers but also consumers, who would enjoy stable prices. Also established the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation as an agency of the Department of Agriculture with a capitalization of \$100 million, authorized to insure wheat crops by accepting wheat in payment of premiums on insurance policies taken out on crop losses by unavoidable causes, ranging from 50 percent to 75 percent of the average yield. Approved February 16, 1938. (52 Stat. 31-77)

Naval Expansion Act. Authorized a \$1,090,656,000 expansion of the United States Navy in order to be able to build a "2-ocean" navy over the ensuing 10 years. Approved May 17, 1938. (52 Stat. 401-403)

Revenue Act of 1938. Reduced the taxes paid by large corporations and reduced the rates on capital gains. Became law on May 27, after President Roosevelt refused either to sign or veto the measure. Approved May 28, 1938. (52 Stat. 447-584)

Temporary National Economic Committee. Authorized a joint legislative-executive body, to hold public hearings to determine the effect of monopoly on prices, wages, profits, consumption, investment, cartels, patents, and many other aspects of the national economy, with a view to improving Federal antitrust policy and procedure. Approved June 16, 1938. (52 Stat. 705-707)

Work Relief and Public Works Appropriation Act of 1938. Provided loans and grants for work relief, public building construction projects, and rural electrification; and parity payments for producers of certain farm commodities; and house construction. Approved June 21, 1938. (52 Stat. 809-821)

Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Superseded and widened the scope of the Pure Food Act of 1906. Prohibited misbranding of products, and required manufacturers of foods, drugs, and cosmetics to list their ingredients on product labels. Also forbade false and misleading advertising. Enforcement of the provisions relating to misbranding were left to the Food and Drug Administration; those relating to advertising were the responsibility of the Federal Trade Commission. Approved June 25, 1938. (52 Stat. 1040-1059) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in United States v. Cardiff, 344 U.S. 174 (1952).

Fair Labor Standards Act. Established a minimum wage of 25 cents an hour (which was to gradually increase to 40 cents an hour after seven years), and a maximum work week of 44 hours for the first year and 40 hours thereafter. Prohibited child labor. Some 800,000 workers received immediate raises as a result of this act. Approved June 25, 1938. (52 Stat. 1060-1069)

SEVENTY-SIXTH CONGRESS
January 3, 1939-January 3, 1941
(Second Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Looking toward reforms within the Government bureaucracy, Congress in April 1939 passed the first of the contemporary series of Administrative Reorganization Acts, which sought to improve Government efficiency and eliminate duplication and waste. In August, the Hatch Act, prohibiting Federal officeholders below the policymaking echelon in the executive branch from participating in political campaigns became law.

Through the Neutrality Act of 1939, Congress repealed the arms embargo under which the Nation had lived for the past two years and then authorized "cash and carry" exports of arms and munitions to belligerents. In June, existing laws governing the admission and deportation of aliens were greatly strengthened with enactment of the Alien Registration Act.

Most of the improvements proposed by the Social Security Board in its report to Congress early in 1939 were embodied in the amendments to the Social Security Act signed into law during mid-August.

On September 3, 1940, Roosevelt in an executive agreement announced his decision to provide Great Britain with 50 overage destroyers in exchange for the right to establish naval bases on seven British territories from Newfoundland to Guam. Seven days before Roosevelt won his third term, the first peacetime draft in the United States was begun.

MAJOR ACTS

Administrative Reorganization Act of 1939. Provided for reorganization by Presidential plan subject to congressional veto within sixty days from submission. Also authorized the President to appoint six administrative assistants. As a consequence of the subsequent reorganization plans approved by Congress, the Executive Office of the President, the Federal Security Agency, the Federal Works Agency, and the Federal Loan Agency were created. Approved April 3, 1939. (53 Stat. 561-565)

Hatch Act. Prohibited any person employed in any administrative position by the Federal Government, or by any department, independent agency, or other agency of the United States, to use his official authority for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the election or the nomination of any candidate

for the office of President, Vice President, Presidential elector, Senator, Representative, and Delegate or Commissioner from Territories or insular possessions. These same public officials were also prohibited from actively participating in political campaigns, soliciting or accepting contributions from work relief employees, and from making use of official authority or favors in order to interfere with or influence the outcome of Presidential or congressional elections. Approved August 2, 1939. (53 Stat. 1147-1149)

Social Security Amendments of 1939. Replaced average wages with total wages as the basis for computing old age benefits. Provided for supplementary old-age benefits for aged wives and extended old-age insurance coverage to maritime workers, persons earning wages after they reached 65, and employees of Federal instrumentalities. Increased the maximum Federal grant for each aged or blind person from \$15 to \$20 a month, and the Federal contribution toward State aid to dependent children from one-third to one-half the amount granted to each person. Postponed the increased the taxes to be paid by employers and employees until 1943. Approved August 10, 1939. (53 Stat. 1360-1402)

Neutrality Act of 1939. Repealed the arms embargo clause of the Neutrality Act of 1937, allowing belligerents to purchase armaments in the U.S. providing they paid cash and used their own ships for transportation. Approved November 4, 1939. (54 Stat. 4-12)

Alien Registration Act (Smith Act). Required all foreigners to register and be fingerprinted. Also made it unlawful to be a member of any organization that advocated the overthrow of the Government by force or violence, or to advocate or conspire to advocate such overthrow. Approved June 28, 1940. (54 Stat. 670-676)

Burke-Wadsworth Selective Service Training Act. Provided for the registration of all men between 21 and 35 years of age, and for their training over a one-year period. Approved September 16, 1940. (54 Stat. 885-897)

SEVENTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
January 3, 1941-December 16, 1942
(Third Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

When Congress met early in January 1941, President Roosevelt appealed to it for support of those nations who were fighting in defense of what he called the Four Freedoms--freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Four days later, he submitted a program designed to circumvent the limitations of the Neutrality Act and make American war materials available to the fighting democracies. Roosevelt's proposal, which became law on March 11, authorized the President to "sell, transfer, exchange, lease, or lend" defense articles "to the government of any country whose defense the President [deemed] vital to the defense of the United States." The Lend-Lease Act also made available to such nations the facilities of American shipyards.

In August the President was successful in having Congress extend the period of service for Nation's draftees from 12 to 30 months (although pacifist sentiment was dramatically reflected in the House vote on the Act, passed by one vote, 203 to 202). Three months later, Congress repealed the Neutrality Act of 1939, permitting the shipment of arms and ammunition to belligerents to begin.

Japan's surprise attack on the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, led to a declaration of war with that country within twenty-four hours. Three days later, following German and Italian declarations of war on the United States, Congress formally recognized a state of war with these countries as well. During the next four months, Congress passed the First and Second War Powers Acts. With these laws the President was authorized to redistribute the duties of executive boards and agencies, and to allocate such materials and facilities as might be necessary for the national defense. Seeking to check speculative and excessive price rises, price dislocations, and inflationary tendencies, Congress in January 1942 established an Emergency Office of Price Administration. In May 1942, it established the Women's Auxiliary Army Corp.

MAJOR ACTS

Lend-Lease Act. Enabled any country whose defense the President deemed vital to that of the U.S. to receive arms and other equipment and supplies by sale, transfer, exchange, or lease. The value of defense articles disposed of in this way and procured from funds heretofore appropriated could not exceed \$1.3 billion. Approved March 11, 1941. (55 Stat. 31-33)

Selective Service Extension of 1941. Amended the Selective Service Act of 1940 to increase the term of service for inductees from 12 to 30 months. Approved August 18, 1941. (55 Stat. 626-628)

Repeal of Certain Sections of the Neutrality Act of 1939. Repealed certain sections of the 1939 Neutrality Act. Henceforth, U.S. merchant ships could be armed and carry cargoes to warring nations. Approved November 17, 1941. (55 Stat. 764-765)

Declaration of a State of War with Japan. Declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Japan, and authorized and directed the deployment of the naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on the war and bring it to a successful termination. Approved December 8, 1941. (55 Stat. 795)

Declaration of a State of War with Germany. Declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Germany, and authorized and directed the deployment of the naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on the war and bring it to a successful termination. Approved December 11, 1941. (55 Stat. 796)

Declaration of a State of War With Italy. Declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Italy, and authorized and directed the deployment of the naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on the war and bring it to a successful termination. Approved December 11, 1941. (55 Stat. 797)

First War Powers Act. Authorized the President to redistribute functions, duties, and powers of executive departments, commissions, bureaus, agencies, governmental corporations, offices, or officers, and to enter into contracts without regard to designated provisions of law, and to investigate, regulate, or prohibit any transactions in foreign exchange, coins, exports, etc. Approved December 18, 1941. (55 Stat. 838-841)

New Selective Service Act. Provided that all men between the ages of 18 and 65 must register, and all men from 20 to 45 would be subject to training and service. Approved December 20, 1941. (55 Stat. 844-847)

Emergency Price Control Act of 1942. Established the Office of Price Administration with power to fix price ceilings on all commodities (except farm products) and to control rents in defense areas. Approved January 30, 1942. (56 Stat. 23-37)

Second War Powers Act. Authorized the President to allocate materials and facilities as necessary for the defense of the United States. Granted additional powers to several Federal agencies and covered a number of other items, including such diverse topics as increasing penalties for priority violations and granting free postage for soldiers. Approved March 27, 1942. (56 Stat. 176-187)

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Act. Created the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) of no more than 150,000 for noncombatant service with the Army of the United States. Approved May 14, 1942. (56 Stat. 278-282)

Teenage Draft Act. Amended the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, making 18- and 19-year old males subject to the draft. Approved November 13, 1942. (56 Stat. 1018-1019)

SEVENTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS
January 6, 1943-December 19, 1944
(Third Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Domestically, Congress moved to protect the national economy through passage of the Emergency Price Control Act of January 1942, with the objective of preventing speculation and inflationary tendencies. Prior to the national elections of 1944, Congress enacted the Soldier Vote Act permitting servicemen to vote through the agency of the U.S. War Ballot Commission.

The return home of the first wave of U.S. veterans of World War II triggered passage of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, otherwise known as the "G.I. Bill," looking to the academic and economic education of the veteran population and their consequent rise in the national economic scale. Supervision of the disposal of surplus Government property became the responsibility of a three-member board under the provisions of the Surplus Property Act of October 3, 1944. With enactment of the War Mobilization and Reconversion Act the same day, responsibility for contract settlements, surplus disposal, and reemployment programs was centralized in the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.

MAJOR ACTS

Smith-Connally Anti-Strike Act. Broadened the President's power to place firms necessary to the war effort under the control of the Government, and made it illegal for a union to strike any war industry. Declared that in plants not essential to the war effort, unions had to observe a 30-day cooling-off period before they could call a strike, and outlawed monetary contributions by unions to political campaigns and candidates. Approved June 25, 1943. (57 Stat. 163-169)

Soldier Vote Act. Authorized absentee voting in time of war, by members of the land and naval forces, members of the merchant marines, and others absent from the place of their residence. Under the terms of the Act, the U.S. War Ballot Commission was denied authority to subvert any State voting laws applicable to the voters involved. Approved April 1, 1944. (58 Stat. 136-149)

Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (G.I. Bill). Granted authority to the Veterans Administration to assist veterans of World War II in adjusting to the conditions of civilian life through the provision of academic training, Federal loans, employment programs, and medical assistance. Approved June 22, 1944. (58 Stat. 284-301)

Surplus Property Act of 1944. Established a three-member board to supervise the disposal of surplus Government property through transfer or sale at fair market value, and assigned preferences in acquiring such property to other Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit educational institutions, veterans, and small businesses. Approved October 3, 1944. (58 Stat. 765-784)

War Mobilization and Reconversion Act. Centralized responsibility for contract settlement, surplus disposal, and reemployment programs in the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, and spelled out the general objectives of reconversion. Also authorized interest-free loans or advances to State and local governments to help finance the planning of public works. Approved October 3, 1944. (58 Stat. 785-792)

SEVENTY-NINTH CONGRESS
January 3, 1945-August 2, 1946
(Fourth Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt)
(First Administration of Harry S. Truman)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1945 was a monumental year--the end and beginning of an era. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had led his country through twelve years of economic and military crises, died April 12, 1945, of a cerebral hemorrhage. Two weeks later, on April 25, delegates of the Allied Powers gathered in San Francisco to write the United Nations Charter. Late in July, the Senate ratified the Charter and near the end of the year provided for the U.S. representatives.

On May 6, 1945, Roosevelt's successor, Harry S. Truman, announced the end of the war in Europe. Early in August, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Japan's unconditional surrender quickly followed the dropping of a second bomb on Nagasaki on August 9. With peace came change, uncertainty, and new challenges. As an immediate outgrowth of the need to control atomic energy, Congress approved the Atomic Energy Act of August 1, 1946, establishing a 5-member civilian Atomic Energy Commission and a Joint (Congressional) Committee on Atomic Energy.

By approving American participation in the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in July, Congress helped to stabilize the currencies of Western Europe and improve international trade. The following July, the President signed a 50-year \$3.75 billion loan to Great Britain to assist her in removing trade and currency restrictions hampering postwar programs for economic reconstruction and trade liberalization. In August, the "Fulbright Scholars" program became a reality.

Congress seeking to reform its own internal structure, in drafting the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, drastically reduced the number of standing committees in both the Senate and the House, strengthened its professional staff and information resources, enacted lobby restriction and reporting requirements, and provided for an annual legislative budget to complement the President's. Other notable pieces of legislation produced by the 79th Congress included the Employment Act of 1946, establishing the President's Council of Economic Advisers and the Joint (Congressional) Economic Committee; and two construction programs providing \$875 million in matching Federal grants to States and local jurisdictions to build airports and hospitals.

Federal aid to school-lunch programs which had begun a decade earlier under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture were put on an entirely new basis with the passage of the National School Lunch Act of June 1946. Two months later, Congress established the Indian Claims Commission to rectify any past unfair treatment in Indian land transactions with the Federal government.

MAJOR ACTS

Bretton Woods Agreements Act. Provided for U.S. participation in the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Approved July 31, 1945. (59 Stat. 512-517)

Ratification of the United Nations Charter. Provided for membership in the United Nations, which consisted of six chief organs: a General Assembly, a Security Council, an Economic and Social Council, an International Court of Justice, a Trusteeship Council, and a Secretariat. Concluded June 26, 1945. Ratified by the Senate July 28, 1945. (59 Stat. 1031)

United Nations Participation Act of 1945. Provided for appointment of representatives of the United States in the organs and agencies of the United Nations. Approved December 20, 1945. (59 Stat. 619-621)

Employment Act of 1946. Established the President's Council of Economic Advisers and the Joint (Congressional) Economic Committee. Declared that it was the policy and responsibility of the Federal Government to use all practical means to assist industry, agriculture, labor, and State and local governments in promoting maximum employment, production, and purchasing power. Approved February 20, 1946. (60 Stat. 23-26)

Federal Airport Act. Authorized a seven-year, \$500 million program of matching Federal grants to cities and States for construction of airports. Approved May 13, 1946. (60 Stat. 170-180)

National School Lunch Act of 1946. Authorized regular Federal cash grants to the States for non-profit school lunch programs in public and private schools. Part of the funds available could be used by the Agriculture Department to purchase and donate commodities to lunch programs, but at least 75 percent was reserved for cash grants to the States for local purchase of foods. Approved June 4, 1946. (60 Stat. 230-234)

British Loan Act. Authorized a loan of \$3.75 billion to assist Great Britain in removing trade and currency exchange restrictions hampering post-war programs for economic reconstruction and trade liberalization. Approved July 15, 1946. (60 Stat. 535)

"Fulbright Scholars" Act. Established a international educational and cultural exchange program for "American citizens in schools and institutions of higher learning abroad and for citizens of foreign countries in American schools and institutions of higher learning. Financing included payment for transportation, tuition, maintenance, and other expenses incidental to scholastic activities. Approved August 1, 1946. (60 Stat. 754-755)

Atomic Energy Act. Transferred control over all aspects of atomic energy development from the War Department to a five-member civilian Atomic Energy Commission appointed by the President to administer research, production, control, and military application. Also authorized a Joint Commission on Atomic Energy to be composed of nine Members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and nine Members of the House, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House to make continuing studies of the activities of the Atomic Energy Commission and the problems relating to the development, use and control of atomic energy. Approved August 1, 1946. (60 Stat. 755-775)

Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Reduced the number of standing committees from 48 to 19 in the House and from 35 to 15 in the Senate. Provided for preparation of an annual legislative budget to complement the President's budget; and raised the salaries of Senators and Representatives from \$10,000 to \$12,500. Provided for professional committee staffs and strengthened the Legislative Reference Service. Also included as part of the law, as a separate title, the Federal Regulation of Lobby Act, requiring lobbyists to register and report their lobbying expenses. Approved August 2, 1946. (60 Stat. 812-852)

Hospital Survey and Construction Act. Authorized a five-year, \$375 million program of matching Federal grants to State and local health bodies for hospital construction. Approved August 13, 1946. (60 Stat. 1040-1049)

Indian Claims Commission Act. Established an Indian Claims Commission to consider the claims of those Indian tribes who felt they had received unfair treatment in land transactions with the Federal government. Judgments favorable to the Indians were to result in compensatory monetary awards. Approved August 13, 1946. (60 Stat, 1049-1056)

EIGHTIETH CONGRESS
January 3, 1947-December 31, 1948
(First Administration of Harry S. Truman)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During 1947-48, America's most dramatic successes were most often scored in the foreign policy arena. Beginning with the enunciation of the Truman Doctrine before a joint session of Congress on March 12, 1947, the President requested an appropriation of \$400 million for military and economic assistance to Greece and Turkey on the grounds that "it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressure" wherever such conditions exist. Within less than two weeks, Truman received exactly what he had asked for.

The Foreign Relief Act of May 31, 1947, provided another \$350 million in economic assistance to several of the countries damaged by the effects of the war and the severe winter of 1946-47. Within less than a year, Secretary of State George C. Marshall's suggestion that even more massive economic aid was needed to assure the postwar recovery of Europe. It received congressional approval with passage of the Marshall Plan (Economic Cooperation Act of 1948) on April 3, 1948. Under Marshall's secretarial authority, the United States arranged and signed the Rio Treaty of 1947, providing for a collective response to aggressive military attacks upon countries in the Western hemisphere.

Arranging for the reorganization of the U.S. defense establishment in July 1947, Congress approved legislation for unification of the armed forces, and the establishment of the National Security Council, Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Resources Board. Also in July the President was authorized to approve a trustee agreement between the United States and the United Nations placing some 2,000 small islands and coral atolls in the Pacific under the international trustee system.

The 80th Congress completed two significant actions relating to the Presidential office. Reacting to Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms, Congress sent to the States on March 21, 1947, a constitutional amendment limiting the tenure of future Presidents to two terms. The 22nd Amendment became law on February 27, 1951, when the 36th State, Minnesota, ratified it. In July 1947, President Truman signed a bill placing the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate next in line of succession to the Presidency after the Vice President, ahead of the Secretary of State and other Cabinet members.

The most significant piece of domestic legislation approved was the Taft-Hartley Labor-Management Relations Act, passed over President Truman's veto on June 23, 1947. This bill, which was bitterly opposed by organized labor, outlawed the closed shop, jurisdictional strikes, and secondary boycotts.

International tensions paved the way for congressional approval of the U.S. Information and Education Exchange Act on January 27, 1948, and a peacetime draft law six months later.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Twenty-Second Amendment. Limited the tenure of future Presidents of the United States to two terms; and prohibited a person who had served as President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term, from being elected President more than once. Proposed March 21, 1947. Ratified by the requisite number of States February 27, 1951. (61 Stat. 959)

Greek-Turkish Aid Act. Provided \$400 million in financial and military aid to the governments of Greece and Turkey, both of which were then engaged in defending heavy Soviet encroachments. Approved May 22, 1947. (61 Stat. 103-105)

Foreign Relief Act. Provided for \$350 million in American economic assistance to several countries damaged by the effects of World War II and the severe winter of 1946-1947. Not more than \$15 million of the funds authorized were to be available to countries or territories other than Austria, Hungary, Greece, Italy, Poland, Trieste, and China. Approved May 31, 1947. (61 Stat. 125-128)

Taft-Hartley Labor-Management Relations Act. Amended the Wagner National Labor Relations Act of 1935; outlawed the closed shop, jurisdictional strikes, and secondary boycotts, and provided for a 60-day moratorium before a strike could be called against industries engaged in interstate commerce. Required that union finances be made public, prohibited unions from contributing to political campaigns, and prohibited Communists from holding union offices. Approved June 23, 1947. (61 Stat. 136-162)

Presidential Succession Act. Changed the order of succession in the event of the death of the President of the United States, making the Speaker of the House of Representatives and then the President pro tempore of the Senate next in the line of succession to the Presidency after the Vice President. Approved July 18, 1947. (61 Stat. 380-381)

Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of the Pacific Islands. Authorized the President to approved a trusteeship agreement between the United States and the United Nations Security Council, placing an area known in the Pacific known as Micronesia ("land of small islands"), embracing the three archipelagoes--the Carolines, Marianas, and Marshall under the international trustee system. Under the U.N. agreement, the United States

accepted obligations to the U.N. for the political, economic, social, and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory. The United States was authorized to establish military bases in the territory and to close all or part of the area for security reasons. A report on the administration of the Trust Territory was to be submitted by the United States to the U.N. annually. Approved July, 18, 1947. (61 Stat. 397)

National Security Act. Replaced the War and Navy Departments with a National Military Establishment consisting of separately administered Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force under the "general direction, authority, and control" of a Secretary of Defense (but no Department of Defense); designated the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the "principal military advisers" to the President and the Secretary and authorized a Joint Staff of 100 officers. Also created a War Council, composed of the Secretary of Defense, the three Service Secretaries and the three chiefs of staff to advise the Secretary "on matters of broad policy relating to the armed forces," a Munitions Board to coordinate procurement and production planning; and a Research and Development Board, to prepare a complete and integrated program of research and development for military purposes. In addition it established the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council. Approved July 26, 1947. (61 Stat. 495-510)

Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty). Pledged the signatory countries (the United States and 18 Latin American countries) to aid any American State that became the victim of attack in the Western Hemisphere with collective political and economic actions; to be decided by a two-thirds vote. Concluded September 2, 1947. Ratified by the Senate December 8, 1947. (62 Stat. 1681-1715)

U.S. Information and Education Exchange Act (Smith-Mundt Act). Established an information service within the State Department including the Voice of America "to disseminate information about the United States, its people, and policies promulgated by the Congress, the President, the Secretary of State, and other responsible officials of the Government." Also created an educational exchange service to cooperate with other nations in exchanging people, knowledge, and skills. Both programs were to be administered by the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs. Approved January 27, 1948. (62 Stat. 6-14)

Economic Cooperation Act of 1948 (Marshall Plan). Created the European Recovery Program, implementing the Marshall Plan. Established the Economic Cooperation Administration and authorized \$5.3 billion for the first year of economic assistance to 16 European countries. Also provided \$275 million for military aid to Greece and Turkey, \$463 million for economic and military aid for China, and \$60 million for a U.N. fund for children. Approved April 3, 1948. (62 Stat. 137-159)

Selective Service Act of 1948. Restored the Selective Service System providing for the registration of all men between 18 and 25 years of age, with induction restricted to those between 18 and 25, for up to 21 months. Approved June 24, 1948. (62 Stat. 604-644)

EIGHTY-FIRST CONGRESS
February 3, 1949-January 2, 1951
(Second Administration of Harry S. Truman)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By 1949-50, the international situation had begun to stabilize somewhat. Reacting to Communist power moves, including the takeover of Czechoslovakia, the United States, Canada, and ten European nations in April 1949 signed the North Atlantic Treaty. Each agreed that "an armed attack against any one or more of them in Europe and North America [would] be considered an attack against all." It was clearly the hope of the signatories that NATO would contain Soviet expansionist ambitions while at the same time preserving a territorial status-quo on the European continent.

The Senate ratified the NATO treaty in July, and in October approved the Mutual Defense Assistance Act, authorizing appropriations for military assistance under the NATO Pact. In June 1950, \$2.7 billion of aid was earmarked for a variety of foreign commitments, including Truman's Point IV technical assistance program, under the Foreign Economic Assistance Act.

President Truman, on January 5, 1949, appeared before Congress to deliver his fourth State of the Union Message and to urge a sweeping new "Fair Deal" program of social reform. Subsequently, he signed the Housing Act of July 1949, providing for the development of a long-range expanded Federal housing, slum clearance, and farm improvement programs, "with deep satisfaction." The Administration also scored important victories with passage of the October 1949 minimum wage increase and the Social Security Expansion Act of August 1950.

Important steps toward streamlining the executive branch were made in the Reorganization Act of 1949, which was based largely on the recommendations submitted by the Hoover Commission, headed by former President Herbert Hoover. About half of the Commission's proposals had been put into effect by late 1950. Power to organize the national economy for full-scale war were conferred upon President Truman by Congress with the enactment of the Defense Production Act following the outbreak of the Korean conflict in mid-1950.

On May 10, 1950, Congress established the National Science Foundation to promote scientific research and education of future scientists. In August Congress approved legislation providing Federal aid to the States for an extensive fish restoration program, and granted American citizenship to the inhabitants of Guam.

By September, pressure for legislation to curb or outlaw the Communist party culminated in the enactment of the Internal Security Act over the President's veto. This law sought to expose--through a complex registration process--Communist-action and Communist-front organizations.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Executive Reorganization Act of 1949. Authorized the President to reorganize the executive branch of the Government, subject to the disapproval of either House of Congress. Approved June 20, 1949. (63 Stat. 203-207)

Housing Act of 1949. Established a national housing objective and authorized Federal aid for slum-clearance and low-rent public housing projects, and Federal assistance for the construction of decent, safe, and sanitary farm dwellings. It made possible for the first time in United States history a comprehensive attack upon slum and blighted areas by local committees with the assistance of Federal loans and grants. Approved July 15, 1949. (63 Stat. 413-444)

North Atlantic Treaty. Guaranteed to the nations of the North Atlantic area a collective response to aggressive attacks upon signatory nations to the treaty, the response to be undertaken within the framework of the United Nations Charter subject to review at any time after 10 years. Established the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Concluded April 4, 1949. Approved by the Senate July 21, 1949. (63 Stat. 2241-2253)

National Security Act Admendments of 1949. Renamed and reorganized the National Military Defense Establishment--the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force--creating an executive Department of Defense incorporating the three military Departments; added a Deputy Secretary and three Assistant Secretaries of Defense; added a non-voting Chairman to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and expanded the joint staff to 210 officers; and dropped the three service Secretaries as members of the National Security Council while adding the Vice President. Approved August 10, 1949. (63 Stat. 578-592)

Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949. Provided for American participation in NATO; authorized appropriations totaling about \$1.3 billion. Also extended provisions of the Marshall Plan until June 30, 1950 authorizing funds totaling \$3,430,000,000 for participating nations. Approved October 6, 1949. (63 Stat. 714-721)

Fair Labor Standards Amendments of 1949. Raised the minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards Act from 40 cents to 75 cents per hour. Altered several fair labor standards, including those affecting workers in certain geographical areas and the use of child labor under certain circumstances. Approved October 26, 1949. (63 Stat. 910-920)

National Science Foundation Act. Established the National Science Foundation, which was authorized and directed to develop and encourage the pursuit of a national policy for the promotion of scientific research and education of future scientists. Authorized an appropriation of \$500,000 to establish the Foundation and subsequent appropriations of \$15 million. Approved May 10, 1950. (64 Stat. 149-157)

Foreign Economic Assistance Act of 1950. Authorized appropriations for five foreign aid programs, including the Point IV program, which called for technical assistance and capital investments in less developed countries. Amended the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948, liberalizing trade between certain West European countries and China, granting certain guarantees to said countries, protecting the American economy against the implementation of the Economic Cooperative Act of 1948. Approved June 5, 1950. (64 Stat. 198-210)

Organic Act of Guam. Granted American citizenship to the inhabitants of Guam and gave the island local self-government. Provided for a unicameral legislature, an independent judiciary headed by a judge appointed by the President, and an appointed governor with veto power. Specified that the governor in making appointments to executive agencies and other local posts should give preference to Guamanians. Citizens of the Island were required to pay Federal income taxes, which were to be retained in Guam for use by the Island government. Approved August 1, 1950. (64 Stat. 384-393)

Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson Act). Provided Federal aid to States for management and restoration of fish having "material value in connection with sport or recreation in the marine or fresh waters of the United States." Approved August 9, 1950. (64 Stat. 430-343)

Social Security Amendments of 1950. Extended and improved the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance System and amended the public assistance and child welfare provisions of the Social Security Act. Approved August 28, 1950. (64 Stat. 477-561) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Califano v. Goldfarb, 430 U.S. 199 (1977).

Defense Production Act of 1950. Established a system of priorities and allocations for materials and facilities, made financial assistance available for the expansion of productive capacity and supply, and provided for price and wage stabilization. Also provided guidelines for the settlement of labor disputes and strengthened governmental control over credit. Approved September 8, 1950. (64 Stat. 798-822)

McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950. Established the Subversive Activities Control Board to rule on petitions of U.S. Attorney General, to list organizations believed to be Communist and require that they register with the Justice Department and submit information concerning membership, finances and activities. Provided for registration of Communist and Communist-front organizations, and for the internment of Communists during national emergencies and prohibited employment of Communists in national defense work. Prohibited from entry into the United States anyone who had been a member of a totalitarian party. Approved September 23, 1950. (64 Stat. 987-1031) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Aptheker v. Secretary of State, 378 U.S. 500 (1964), Albertson v. Subversive Activities Control Board, 382 U.S. 70 (1965), and United States v. Robel, 389 U.S. 258 (1967).

EIGHTY-SECOND CONGRESS
January 3, 1951-July 7, 1952
(Second Administration of Harry S. Truman)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As an expression of "spontaneous, heartfelt desire of the American people to help" the Indian people in their hour of need," President Truman was authorized in June 1951 to lend India \$190 million to buy 2 million tons of American grain needed to stave off an impending famine. Authorizations totaling \$14,931,130,750 were embodied in the Mutual Security Acts of 1951 and 1952, as the United States continued its policy of supporting rearmament of Europe through economic aid.

With enactment of the October 1951 Mutual Defense Assistance Control Act, provision was made for mandatory termination of aid to any country found to be shipping arms or munitions to Soviet-dominated countries. Congress in June 1952, over President's Truman's veto, passed the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act, preserving the national origins quota system of 1942, which the Administration had fought to abolish.

In July, President Truman signed a congressional resolution approving the new constitution drafted by Puerto Rico and elevating the island to the status of a free commonwealth associated with the United States.

On the domestic front, an Agricultural Marketing Act, approved on July 5, 1952, maintained price supports for the basic crops in order to encourage high production to meet war needs. A "Korean G.I. Bill of Rights" for veterans of the Korean conflict was enacted on July 16. Later the same day, the Bureau of Mines was authorized for the first time to order unsafe mines shut down until they were made safe. Additional Social Security benefits were embodied in the Social Security Act Amendments of August 1952.

MAJOR ACTS

India Emergency Food Aid Act. Authorized the President to loan \$190 million to famine-stricken India for the purchase of American grain. Approved June 15, 1951. (65 Stat. 69-71)

Mutual Security Act of 1951. Authorized \$7,483,400,000 in U.S. foreign economic, military, and technical aid and reauthorized an expenditure of \$816,700,000 in unexpended aid funds, stipulating that at least 10 percent of the aid be in the form of loans. Also replaced the Economic Cooperation Administration with the Mutual Security Agency. Approved October 10, 1951. (65 Stat. 373-387)

Mutual Defense Assistance Control Act of 1951. Provided for mandatory termination of aid to any country found to be shipping arms or munitions to Soviet-dominated areas. Shipment of strategic goods other than arms would also lead to termination of aid, unless the President found such action was not detrimental to national security. Approved October 26, 1951. (65 Stat. 644-647)

Mutual Security Act of 1952. Extended military and economic assistance to non-Communist countries in Near East, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America. Approved June 20, 1952. (66 Stat. 141-151)

McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act. Continued the national origins quota system, but eliminated the exclusion of Asians. Also tightened provisions for the exclusion of aliens believed to be dangerous to the country and facilitated the deportation of such immigrants. Approved June 27, 1952. (66 Stat. 163-282) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Afroyim v. Rusk, 387 U.S. 253 (1967), and Schneider v. Rusk, 377 U.S. 163 (1964).

Approval of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Provided approval of the new constitution drafted by Puerto Rico and elevated the status of the island to the status of a free commonwealth voluntarily associated with the United States. Approved July 3, 1952. (66 Stat. 327-328)

Agricultural Marketing Act. Continued 90 percent of parity price on the six basic crops (cotton, wheat, corn, peanuts, rice and tobacco) until 1955. Also provided that price supports for these six crops would be determined through 1955 by whichever of the two parity formulas (the "old" or the "modernized") gave the higher price. Approved July 5, 1952. (66 Stat. 335-358)

Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1952 (G.I. Bill of Rights). Offered the Korean War veterans' home, farm, and business loan benefits, Federal contributions toward unemployment compensation benefits, mustering out payments, and educational and vocational assistance. Approved July 16, 1952. (66 Stat. 663-691)

Federal Coal Mine Safety Act Amendments. Authorized the Bureau of Mines to order unsafe mines threatened with imminent disaster from fire, explosion, flooding, or cave-in to shut down until made safe. Applied only to mines with 15 or more employees. Approved July 16, 1952. (66 Stat. 692-710)

Social Security Act Amendments of 1952. Provided for an annual increase of \$4 million in Social Security insurance payments and a \$242.7 million rise in public assistance grants; also increased the Federal share of payments. Approved July 18, 1952. (66 Stat. 767-780)

EIGHTY-THIRD CONGRESS
January 3, 1953-December 2, 1954
(First Administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

President Dwight D. Eisenhower in his first State of Union Message on February 2, 1953, declared that the immigration policy of the United States "does in fact discriminate," and asked Congress to write a new one that would "guard our legitimate national interests and be faithful to our basic ideas of freedom and fairness to all." Although no immediate action was taken to revise the Nation's immigration policy, Congress did approve in July an act authorizing the admittance of 209,000 refugees.

On July 27, 1953, just six months after taking office, the President fulfilled his campaign pledge to bring the Korean War to an end. Three days later, Congress satisfied its growing distrust of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and a desire to help small businesses by ordering the liquidation of the RFC and providing for the establishment of a new lending agency, the Small Business Administration. In early August, a Farm Credit Board was authorized with the object of increasing farmers' participation in the ownership and control of the Federal Farm Credit System.

During 1953 legislation was also passed giving the States title to the oil-rich coastal lands previously claimed by the Federal Government, authorizing the admission of more than 200,000 refugees not provided for by regular quotas, and permitting the President to carry out a governmental reorganization plan creating a new Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

More than half a century after the idea was first seriously proposed, Congress in May 1954 authorized the United States Government to cooperate with Canada in constructing the St. Lawrence Seaway, a deep-water navigation channel in the St. Lawrence River making it possible for relatively large ships to sail directly from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. Enactment of the Atomic Energy Act of August 1954 terminated the Federal monopoly of atomic science information and technology, opening the way for private ownership and development.

In addition, Congress broadened the urban redevelopment program started in 1949, revised the Internal Revenue Code, approved the sale of surplus agricultural commodities to non-communist countries, voted a liberalization of Social Security benefits, provided for a review of the customs tariff schedule, reorganized and granted greater autonomy to the local government of the Virgin Islands, and enacted a bill designed to outlaw the Communist Party.

MAJOR ACTS

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Established the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Included as part of the new Department were the Social Security Administration, the Office of Education, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Approved April 11, 1953. (67 Stat. 631-632)

Submerged Lands ("Tidelands") Act. Confirmed and established that the States owned the submerged lands in the sea off their borders and the mineral resources of such lands. Also confirmed the jurisdiction and control of the Federal Government over the natural resources of the seabed beyond the submerged lands as far as the edge of the continental shelf (in some areas extending as much as 150 miles) which were called the Outer Continental Shelf Lands. Approved May 22, 1953. (67 Stat. 29-33)

Small Business Administration Act. Dissolved the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and established a successor organization, the Small Business Administration. Authorized an appropriation of \$275 million for a revolving fund, of which \$150 million was for loans to firms unable to get credit on reasonable terms elsewhere, another \$100 million to finance procurement contracts, and \$25 million for disaster loans. Each borrower was limited to \$150,000, with a 10-year maturity date. Approved July 30, 1953. (67 Stat. 230-240)

Farm Credit Act of 1953. Removed the Farm Credit Administration from the Agriculture Department and made it an independent agency, to be governed by a 13-member Farm Credit Board supervising the Farm Credit System. Twelve members were to be appointed by the President and one by the Secretary of Agriculture. Approved August 6, 1953. (67 Stat. 390-400)

Refugee Relief Act of 1953. Authorized the admission to the United States of 209,000 refugees not provided for by the regular quotas. Like the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, this law required the assistance from U.S. citizens in finding jobs and housing for those admitted. Applicants were also required to obtain certificates guaranteeing that they would be readmitted to the countries where their visas were issued, in case they were denied entry into the United States or deported. Approved August 7, 1953. (67 Stat. 400-407)

Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Provided for United States jurisdiction over the submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands, and authorized the leasing of such lands by the Secretary of the Interior. Approved August 7, 1953. (67 Stat. 462-471)

St. Lawrence Seaway Act of 1954. Established, in conjunction with the government of Canada, the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, for the purpose of constructing the St. Lawrence Seaway at the mutual expense and for the mutual use of and control by Canada and the United States. Approved May 13, 1954. (68 Stat. 92-97)

Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954. Provided the sale of surplus U.S. agricultural commodities to friendly foreign nations. Approved July 10, 1954. (68 Stat. 454-459)

Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands. Reorganized the local government of the Virgin Islands providing for a governor appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate, a single island legislature, a central administration, and a judicial system headed by a judge appointed by the President. Also authorized the territorial government to issue up to \$10 million in revenue bonds. Under the act, laws could be passed by two-thirds of the legislature over the governor's veto, but were subject to final approval by the President. Also provided that excise taxes on all products from the Virgin Islands were to be returned to the territorial government. Approved July 22, 1954. (86 Stat. 497-510)

Housing Act of 1954. Authorized the construction of 35,000 new public housing units in 1955 to serve families displaced by urban redevelopment, slum clearance, and urban redevelopment. Increased the amount of the maximum mortgage on both sale and rental housing. Lowered the down payments, and lengthened amortization periods. Also included provisions to curb future abuses under FHA operations as a result of disclosures of irregularities in the administration of the FHA home-loan program. Approved August 2, 1954. (68 Stat. 590-648)

Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Granted \$3.363 billion in tax relief for individuals and business firms. Reduced taxes on dividend income received by individual stockholders, and specified deductions allowable on items such as retirement income, child-care costs, medical expenses, dependents, charitable contributions, depreciation, non-operating losses, and research costs. Approved August 16, 1954. (68A Stat. 1-928) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Marchetti v. United States, 390 U.S. 39 (1968), Grosso v. United States, 390 U.S. 62 (1968), Leary v. United States, 395 U.S. 6 (1969), and Haynes v. United States, 390 U.S. 85 (1968).

Communist Control Act of 1954. Outlawed the Communist party in the United States and prohibited Communists and Communist-front organizations and forbade members of Communist organizations from serving in certain representative capacities. Approved August 24, 1954. (68 Stat. 775-780)

Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Amended the Atomic Energy Act of 1949 to promote private ownership and development of atomic power and to terminate a Federal monopoly on atomic science and technology. Authorized American cooperation with friendly nations in development of peaceful uses of atomic power. Approved August 30, 1954. (68 Stat. 919-961)

Social Security Act Amendments of 1954. Revised sections of the Social Security Act to the advantage of certain Federal employees, domestic servants, Americans employed by foreign governments, ministers, policemen, firemen, and National Guard members, and increased benefits payable to recipients in general. Approved September 1, 1954. (68 Stat. 1052-1099)

CRS-143

Custom Simplification Act of 1954. Provided for the review of customs tariffs schedules, to improve procedures for the tariff classification of unenumerated articles, and for other purposes. Approved September 1, 1954. (68 Stat. 1136-1141)

EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS
January 5, 1955-July 27, 1956
(First Administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Fearing military assault by Chinese communist forces against Formosa and the Pescadores Islands, Congress in January 1955 authorized the President to employ U.S. Armed Forces in their defense in the event of attack. Within the next few weeks the Senate ratified the treaty establishing the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, and the protocols ending the occupation of Germany and permitting West German rearmament and providing for NATO membership. The peace treaty with Austria, creating an independent neutral state, was ratified by the Senate on June 17, 1955.

Among the most important domestic enactments approved by Congress in 1955-56 were the multi-billion dollar Federal highway program, providing for a 41,000-mile interstate superhighway program as part of the most extensive public works projects in the Nation's history, and the Agricultural Act of 1956, which included the soil bank program, which supporters hoped would limit farm surpluses and raise farmers' incomes.

Congress also voted for an increase in the minimum wage to \$1 per hour, approved the creation of a Ready Reserve force of 250,000 men, authorized \$500 million in grants to help local communities to build sewage treatment plants, provided for a reorganization of the Fish and Wildlife service, and approved the \$760 million Upper Colorado River Project.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Formosa and Pescadores Defense Act. Authorized the President to employ the Armed Forces of the United States to protect Formosa and the Pescadores from a possible Communist Chinese attack. Approved January 29, 1955. (69 Stat. 7)

SEATO Treaty. Pledged the signatories (the United States, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand, and the Philippines) to resist armed attack against "the general area of Southeast Asia, and the Southwest Pacific" up to 21 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, a line that excluded Formosa. Concluded September 8, 1954. Approved by the Senate February 1, 1955. (6 UST. 81-89) *

* UST refers to the State Department's multivolume series which began in 1950 entitled: United States Treaties and Other International Agreements.

Protocol on the Termination of the Occupation Regime in the Federal Republic of Germany. Gave Germany virtual freedom, ended Allied occupation, reserved Allied military rights in that territory, and provided for West German contributions to the cost of Western defense. Concluded October 23, 1954. Approved by the Senate April 1, 1955. (6 UST. 4117-5687)

Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty to Admit Germany to the 14-Member Alliance. Communicated to the Federal Republic of Germany an invitation to join the North Atlantic Treaty. Concluded October 23, 1954. Approved by the Senate April 1, 1955. (6 UST. 5707-5713)

Peace Treaty With Austria. Restablished Austria as a sovereign, independent and democratic state with its pre-1938 frontiers. Barred Austria from any economic or political union with Germany and from owning or making atomic weapons and guided missiles. Also provided for the withdrawal of occupation forces by the end of 1955; that no reparations would be paid but Russia was to be given certain oil concessions and refineries; and declared that Austria was "to join no military alliances and to permit no military bases on its territory." Concluded May 15, 1955. Approved by the Senate June 17, 1955. (6 UST. 2369-2535)

Reserve Forces Act of 1955. Authorized up to 250,000 men between 17 and 18 1/2 to sign up annually (until August 1, 1959) for three to six months of active duty and remain draft-exempt provided they attended 48 weekly drills and served 17 days of active duty each year for the remainder of their eight-year Ready Reserve obligation. Those who failed to perform satisfactorily could be called to active duty for 45 days or drafted for two years. Approved August 9, 1955. (69 Stat. 598-605)

Fair Labor Standards Act Amendments of 1955. Raised the minimum wage from 75 cents an hour to \$1, effective March 1, 1956. Approved 12, 1955. (69 Stat. 711-712)

Upper Colorado River Project. Provided for the construction by the Bureau of Reclamation of four major dams, the Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Navajo, and Curecanti (all but the Navajo having major power features). In addition, the act authorized 11 small irrigation projects as part of the over-all project, one (Central Utah) with sizeable electric generating units of its own. For initial costs, \$750 million was authorized. Approved April 11, 1956. (70 Stat. 105-111)

Agricultural Act of 1956. Established the soil bank program aimed at retiring land from production and thereby reducing agricultural surpluses. Provided \$750 million per year for four years to pay farmers for reducing crop acreage for corn, wheat, peanuts, cotton, tobacco, and rice. Approved May 28, 1956. (70 Stat. 188-213)

Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. Amended and supplemented Federal-Aid Road Act of 1916, to authorize nearly \$31 billion to be spent over the next 13 years for the construction of a 41,000-mile interstate superhighway program. In addition, the Act amended the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to earmark certain highway user fees and taxes, such as the taxes on motor fuel, tires, and trucks and buses, for a Highway Trust Fund to help finance the interstate programs and required that the Trust Fund never show a deficit. Approved June 29, 1956. (70 Stat. 374-402)

Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1956. Substantially revised the Water Pollution Control Act of 1948. Authorized the Surgeon General to study pollution problems, and provided for grants to States to cover between one-third and two-thirds of the costs of a State plan for pollution control, and \$500 million in grants to help local communities build sewage treatment plants. Approved July 9, 1956. (70 Stat. 498-507)

Servicemen's and Veterans' Survivor Benefits Act. Placed all servicemen under contributory coverage of the Old Age and Survivors Insurance (Social Security) system and replaced the free \$10,000 life insurance coverage authorized in 1951 for all persons on active duty with a schedule of monthly payments to survivors ranging from \$122 to \$266. Approved August 1, 1956. (70 Stat. 857-887)

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956. Reorganized the Fish and Wildlife Service into two bureaus--the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. Established a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and provided for the Secretary of the Interior to take any steps needed to conserve and develop fisheries and wildlife resources. Approved August 8, 1956. (70 Stat. 1119-1124)

EIGHTY-FIFTH CONGRESS
January 3, 1957-August 24, 1958
(Second Administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Responding to Eisenhower's request of January 5, 1957, Congress granted the President authority the following March to extend economic and military aid to protect free Middle East nations from "overt aggression" by what he called "power hungry Communists." Later in 1957, the President twice resorted to the Eisenhower Doctrine, as it was quickly dubbed, to discourage an attack on Jordan by Syria.

Closer cooperation on atomic energy was achieved with the ratification by the Senate on June 18, 1957, of the International Atomic Energy Treaty, providing for the establishment of an International Atomic Energy Agency comprising the United States and seventy-nine other nations. Authorization for appointment of U.S. representatives to the Agency were approved in August.

On October 5, 1957, the Soviet government launched the first artificial earth satellite, "Sputnik." A second Soviet satellite, with a dog aboard, was launched on November 3. In direct response to these developments, Congress in July 1958 established a civilian-controlled National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and both Houses of Congress organized standing committees on space matters. The Russian achievements in space technology moved Congress as well to make by far the largest Federal commitment to education in history. Passage of the massive National Defense Education Act of September 1958 established a seven-year \$1 billion program of loans and grants designed to improve the teaching of science, mathematics and foreign languages at all levels of American education.

With enactment of the Civil Rights Act of September 1957, the first since 1875, Congress created the executive Commission on Civil Rights and empowered the Attorney General to seek injunctions when individuals were denied the right to vote. Advocates of the legislation viewed the vote as the foundation of most other civil liberties.

Admission of Alaska to the Union in July 1958 culminated decades of pressure to admit the territory to the Union. Important actions relating to the Nation's transportation systems in 1958 included a \$3.26 billion Federal Highway Act, and a \$500 million Transportation Act designed to revive the Nation's failing railroads. Other major laws provided for the establishment of a standard pension policy for retiring Presidents, reorganization of the military which placed the Army, Navy, and Air Force under the direction and control of the Secretary of Defense, creation of the Office of Civil Defense Mobilization, and a commission to develop recommendations for the Nation's outdoor recreation needs through the year 2000.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Middle East Resolution. Authorized the President to cooperate with and assist any nation or group of nations in the Middle East desiring assistance in developing economic and military strength dedicated to the maintenance of national independence and protecting themselves against armed aggression from a Communist-dominated country. Approved March 9, 1957. (71 Stat. 5-6)

International Atomic Energy Treaty. Established an International Atomic Energy Agency with a director and board of governors to work toward harnessing the atom for peaceful purposes on a world-wide scale. Signatories (the United States and the seventy-nine other member-nations) were authorized to make fissionable material available at their discretion. Concluded October 23, 1956. Ratified by the Senate June 18, 1957. (8 UST. 1093-1224)

International Atomic Energy Participation Act of 1957. Provided for the appointment of United States representatives in the subsidiary bodies of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Approved August 28, 1957. (71 Stat. 453-456)

Civil Rights Act of 1957. Created the executive Commission on Civil Rights and established a Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice. Also empowered the Attorney General to seek court injunctions against obstruction and deprivation of voting rights. Approved September 9, 1957. (71 Stat. 634-638)

Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1958. Authorized funding for a \$3.26 billion Federal road-building program for fiscal years 1959-61. Approved April 16, 1958. (72 Stat. 89-96)

Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Act. Established the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission consisting of Members of Congress, Presidential appointees, employees of Federal agencies, and private citizens to study the current status and needs of the Nation for outdoor recreation resources through the year 2000. Developed the recommendations which were subsequently enacted by Congress as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the National Trails System, and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Approved June 28, 1958. (72 Stat. 238-241)

Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1958 (Creation of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization). Provided for the merger of the Office of Defense Mobilization and the Federal Civil Defense Administration within the Executive Office of the President. Approved July 1, 1958. (72 Stat. 1799-1801) On August 26, 1958, legislation was enacted changing the name of the new agency to the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization. (72 Stat. 861)

Admission of the State of Alaska to the Union. Provided for the formal acceptance of the constitution of the State of Alaska adopted on April 24, 1956. Granted to the State the right to select 102,550,000 acres of vacant unreserved public lands and an additional area of 800,000 acres adjacent to communities. Reserved an area in northern and northwestern Alaska for

national defense establishments. Entitled the new State to two Senators and one Representative, and ordered Alaskans to vote in a referendum on whether they consented to becoming a State under the conditions specified in the act. Approved July 7, 1958. (72 Stat. 339-352)

National Aeronautic and Space Act of 1958. Created a new civilian agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), to direct the Nation's scientific activities relating to all non-military aspects of outer space. Research projects primarily military in nature continued to be carried out by the Department of Defense. Approved July 29, 1958. (72 Stat. 426-438)

Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958. Authorized the Secretary of Defense to consolidate common supply or service functions for the Army, Navy and Air Force and to assign responsibility for development and operation of new weapon systems. Also authorized him to transfer, reassign, abolish, or consolidate established combatant functions of the three services, subject to congressional approval. Approved August 6, 1958. (72 Stat. 514-522)

Transportation Act of 1958. Authorized the Interstate Commerce Commission to operate a \$500 million program of guaranteed loans to aid the Nation's railroads. Prohibited railroads from paying any stock dividends while a federally guaranteed loan for maintenance, or interest on the loan, was outstanding. It also gave the ICC full authority to adjust interstate railroad rates and power, regardless of State law, and to permit railroads to discontinue interstate service if it found the service to be an "unduly burden." Approved August 12, 1958. (72 Stat. 568-574)

Former Presidents Act. Provided former Presidents with a taxable annual pension of \$25,000 and an annual allowance of up to \$50,000 for an office staff. Authorized the General Services Administration to provide suitable, furnished office space and free mailing privileges for former Presidents. Also authorized a \$10,000 annual pension for widows of former Presidents, providing they give up any other Federal annuity or pension. Approved August 25, 1958. (72 Stat. 838-839)

National Defense Education Act of 1958. Established a \$1 billion program designed to improve the teaching of science, mathematics and foreign languages. Authorized the U.S. Commissioner of Education to lend \$295 million from fiscal 1959 through fiscal 1962 to university and college student loan funds to enable needy students to continue their education. Provided matching grants to the States for public schools and 10-year loans to private schools for the purchase of equipment to be used in teaching science, mathematics and foreign languages or for "minor" remodeling to make room for the equipment. Further authorized 5,500 three-year graduate fellowships, with preference to those students interested in teaching; \$15 million a year for grants to State educational agencies; \$32 million to colleges establishing advanced institutes for teaching modern foreign languages to train public school teachers; \$18 million for Federal grants to public and nonprofit groups and individuals to conduct research into modern teaching aids; and \$60 million in grants to assist the States in vocational education. Approved September 2, 1958. (72 Stat. 1580-1605)

EIGHTY-SIXTH CONGRESS
January 7, 1959-September 1, 1960
(Second Administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During President Eisenhower's final two years in office, the cold war with the Soviet Union ran the gamut from cordial to extremely bitter. In May 1959 Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's six-month deadline for achieving a settlement on the occupation of Berlin passed by almost unnoticed. Two months later, Vice President Richard Nixon received a friendly reception by Russian crowds on his 13-day tour of the Soviet Union.

Then in September, at Eisenhower's invitation, Khrushchev visited the United States for consultations with the President and a transcontinental tour. Near the end of his trip, Khrushchev conferred for two days with Eisenhower at Camp David. Afterwards it was announced that the President would visit the Soviet Union in 1960. When Francis Gary Powers' U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance plane was shot down by Soviet missiles over Russia the following May, however, Khrushchev denounced the spy flight and withdrew the already-accepted invitation to President Eisenhower to visit Russia.

Meanwhile on Capitol Hill, Congress, after more than four decades of legislative proposals, voted in March 1959 to admit Hawaii into the Union as the 50th State. That September, the continual exposure of corruption in labor unions and labor-management collusion by the Senate Select Committee resulted in the passage of the Landrum-Griffin Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, which provided the means for coping with union officials guilty of corruption in the use of union funds. It also included a "Bill of Rights" for labor union members, Federal supervision of union elections, and several major modifications of the Taft-Hartley Labor Relations Act of 1947.

Of major significance to 2 million Government workers and their families was the Federal Employees' Health Benefits Act of 1959, establishing a pre-paid, voluntary health insurance plan with costs to be equally shared by the Government and the beneficiaries. For non-Federal employees, Congress passed the Social Security Act Amendments for 1960, providing help in the medical care for the elderly to be financed by increased Social Security payments.

President Eisenhower, on May 6, 1960, signed a new Civil Rights Act the most important clause of which permitted Federal judges to send referees to supervise voter registration in areas of apparent racial discrimination. In June, U.S. participation in the International Development Association was authorized and the Senate ratified a new security treaty with Japan, removing the remaining traces of the post-war occupation.

In June 1960, Congress approved establishment of a formal Federal policy to manage the renewable surface resources of the national forests. Four days later, the Twenty-second Amendment, giving the residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote in Presidential elections, was sent to the States for ratification.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Admission of the State of Hawaii to the Union. Provided for the formal ratification of the State constitution adopted by the Hawaiians on November 7, 1950. Created a public trust of public lands granted to the State for the purpose of supporting public schools or other public improvements. Gave the new State all the lands held by the United States at time of admission, but permitted Congress or the President, within a five-year period following admission, to set aside any former U.S. lands for the Federal Government. Entitled the new State to two Senators and one Representative until the 1960 census (after which the State was divided into two congressional districts), and ordered the Hawaiians to vote in a referendum on whether they consented to becoming a State under the conditions specified in the act. Approved March 18, 1959. (73 Stat. 4-13)

Landrum-Griffin Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959. Provided a "Bill of Rights" for union members which included a guarantee that they would have "equal rights and privileges" to nominate candidates, vote for union officials, participate in union meetings and caucus with other members under "reasonable rules and regulations" established by the union. Required all union members to adopt constitutions and bylaws and to register them, and other information outlining their financial and organizational structure, with the Secretary of Labor. Also required that any union exercising trusteeship over a union local to file semi-annual reports with the Secretary of Labor detailing the conditions of the trusteeship and the financial condition of the local. Made it a crime not to file, to file falsely or to destroy union records or make such reports public information. Specified that local unions elections be by secret ballot every three years, national elections every five years, and intermediate bodies every four years. Provided for a means of coping with union officials guilty of corruption in the use of union funds, Federal supervision of labor union elections, and several major modifications of the Taft-Harley Labor Relations Act of 1947. Approved September 14, 1959. (73 Stat. 519-546) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in United States v. Brown, 381 U.S. 437 (1965).

Federal Employees Health Benefits Act of 1959. Established a prepaid, voluntary health insurance plan for more than 2 million Federal employees and their families, with costs to be shared equally by the Government and the employees. Gave Federal employees unrestricted choice of enrolment in one of several different health insurance programs. Act was to be administered by the Civil Service Commission through a newly created Bureau of Retirement and Insurance. Approved September 28, 1959. (73 Stat. 708-717)

Civil Rights Act of 1960. Authorized judges to appoint referees empowered to assist persons experiencing opposition in the exercise of the voting franchise. Also provided criminal penalties for bombing, bomb-threats, and mob action designed to obstruct court orders. Approved May 6, 1960. (74 Stat. 86-92)

National Forests Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act. Established a formal Government policy that the national forests should be administered under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield with the objective of developing five basic resources: outdoor recreation resources, range resources, timber resources, watershed resources, and fish and wildlife resources. Approved June 12, 1960. (74 Stat. 215)

Twenty-third Amendment. Provided the citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote for President and Vice President by giving them three representatives in the Electoral College. Approved June 16, 1960. (74 Stat. 1057) Ratified by the requisite number of States March 29, 1961. (75 Stat. 847-848)

Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the United States of America and Japan. Committed the United States and Japan to come to each other's defense if either were attacked "in the territories under the administration of Japan." Also affirmed American rights to land, air, and naval bases in Japan, but conditioned any major shifts in American forces or the use of these bases for combat operations on "prior consultation" with Japan. Concluded January 19, 1960. Ratified by the Senate June 22, 1960. (11 UST. 1632-1759)

International Development Associations Act. Provided for membership of the United States in the International Development Association, together with a subscription of \$320,290,000 to be paid over five years. Approved June 30, 1960. (74 Stat. 293-295.)

Social Security Act Amendments of 1960. Created the Medical Assistance to Aged Program under which the Federal Government would reimburse the States for 50-80 percent of their costs in providing medical care for "medically needy" persons 65 or over. Increased Federal matching grants to the States for medical care for the low income elderly. Also amended the public assistance and maternal and child welfare provisions of the Social Security Act and liberalized retirement earnings limitations for all beneficiaries. Approved September 13, 1960. (74 Stat. 924-997)

EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
January 3, 1961-October 13, 1962
(Administration of John F. Kennedy)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On January 20, 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as our 35th, and youngest elected, President. During the ensuing two years, the idealism of his inaugural remarks, wherein he called on Americans and all free men "to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle...against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself," was translated into several specific programs.

Kennedy was able to gain congressional support in September 1961 for a Peace Corps, which would send Americans to underdeveloped countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia to provide trained manpower in a wide variety of projects relating to agriculture, education, health, economics, conservation, and community and natural-resources development. He fulfilled another campaign promise in gaining congressional approval four days later for a U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Following Kennedy's announcement of an "Alliance for Progress" with the countries of Latin America, Congress in May 1961, and August 1962, approved \$1.2 billion in aid to Latin America, which it was hoped would result in political and social reforms guaranteeing greater stability and progress in these countries. On March 16, 1961, the Senate approved the convention providing for U.S. membership in the Organization for Economic Development. Early that fall legislation was enacted consolidating earlier laws on educational and cultural exchange programs.

Congress also sought to direct United States foreign policy through passage of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1962, which prohibited aid to Communist countries, and those countries providing assistance to Cuba. In approving the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, Congress was praised by Kennedy as having enacted the the most important foreign economic policy initiative "since the passage of the Marshall Plan."

Shifting its emphasis to the Nation's domestic needs, Congress drafted four laws, during Kennedy's first two years in office, to cover special vocational programs which would be coordinated by the same State vocational agencies already having responsibility for existing Federal-State programs. The Area Redevelopment Act of May 1961 authorized special job training for workers in economically depressed areas. The Manpower Development and Training Act of March 1962 sought to retrain workers with obsolete skills. The Public Welfare Amendments of July 1962 provided special community

training for people dependent upon public assistance. The Trade Expansion Act of October 1962 made special training available for workers who had lost their jobs because of foreign competition.

President Kennedy's signature on the Area Redevelopment Act of May 1, 1961, established a multibillion dollar program to assist in the financing of industrial and rural redevelopment. With the Public Works Acceleration Act of September 1962, Congress provided \$900 million for immediate acceleration of job-creating Federal and local public works projects in areas of high unemployment.

Other actions on Capitol Hill during the Eighty-seventh Congress raised the minimum wage from \$1.00 to \$1.25 an hour, broadened social security benefits, provided supplemental funds for Federal and Federal-aid highways, established the Communications Satellite Corporation, and authorized a \$100 million loan to the United Nations. In addition, the Twenty-fourth amendment, outlawing the use of poll taxes as a means of preventing citizens from voting in Federal elections, was sent to the States for ratification late in August 1962. This new amendment went into effect on January 23, 1964, with the ratification by South Dakota.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Convention on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Established the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a consultative body, consisting of the United States, Canada, and 18 European nations. Concluded December 14, 1960. Approved by the Senate March 16, 1961. (12 UST. 1728-1759)

Area Redevelopment Act. Authorized the President to appoint an Area Redevelopment Administrator, to serve under the Secretary of Commerce, with authority to borrow \$300 million from the Treasury for a revolving fund to finance industrial and rural redevelopment loans and public facility loans. Limited Federal participation to a maximum of 65 percent of redevelopment project costs, but permitted 100 percent loans for public facilities. Also appropriated monies for technical assistance, vocational retraining, and subsistence payments to trainees. Approved May 1, 1961. (75 Stat. 47-63)

Fair Labor Standards Amendments of 1961. Raised the minimum wage in stages from \$1 an hour to \$1.25 an hour, and extended full wage and hour coverage—also in stages—to about 3,624,000 previously exempt workers, two-thirds of them in the retail and service trades. Approved May 5, 1961. (75 Stat. 65-75)

Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1961. Authorized an additional \$900 million a year (a total of \$9.7 billion through fiscal 1972) for the National Interstate Highway program. Approved June 29, 1961. (75 Stat. 122-129.)

Social Security Amendments of 1961. Increased both Social Security benefits and Social Security taxes. Approved June 30, 1961. (75 Stat. 131-143.)

Housing Act of 1961. Authorized \$2 billion in new funds for urban renewal, \$55 million for urban planning, and special grants and loan funds for development of mass transit facilities and "open spaces" in cities. Expanded community facilities loans aimed at financing basic sewage, gas and water service in small communities, authorized about 100,000 new public housing units, and boosted funds for construction of farm housing and housing for the elderly. Also initiated three new experimental programs providing Federal loan insurance against losses on long-term (35-40 year) commercial loans made for construction and rehabilitation of moderate income housing. Approved June 30, 1961 (75 Stat. 149-192.)

Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act. Broadened the President's authority to finance the costs of sending Americans abroad and bringing foreigners to the United States for a wide variety of educational, scientific, and cultural purposes. Also created a new non-immigration alien category of "exchange visitors" with special visas and amended tax law to the benefit of exchangees. Approved September 21, 1961. (75 Stat. 527-538)

Peace Corps Act of 1961. Granted "permanent legislative authority" to the Peace Corps, established by executive authority in March 1961 to enlist young Americans as technological instructors and helpers in the less-developed countries, providing skilled manpower for international development projects. Authorized \$40 million for fiscal 1962. Approved September 22, 1961. (75 Stat. 612-627.)

Arms Control and Disarmament Act. Established an independent United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency to conduct research, prepare policy recommendations, conduct disarmament negotiations, and plan for establishment of inspection and control systems. Provided for a 15-member General Advisory Committee and authorized an appropriation of \$10 million to the agency. Approved September 26, 1961. (75 Stat. 631-639)

Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962. Authorized a new Federal program to train workers to help alleviate unemployment and to provide skilled personnel in certain industries. Under this program the Secretary of Labor and the States were responsible for helping to determine manpower needs, selecting candidates for training, and placing trained persons. Approved March 15, 1962. (76 Stat. 23-33)

Public Welfare Amendments of 1962. Broadened welfare aid to those people considered to be the most needy, while undertaking a campaign to reduce the need for aid through programs of rehabilitation, training, and self-care for the needy. Increased Federal reimbursements to the States for rehabilitative services to public assistance clients from 50 to 75 percent of the the total cost. Authorized appointment by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare of a 12-member Advisory Council on Public Welfare. Approved July 25, 1962. (76 Stat. 172-208)

Foreign Assistance Act of 1962. Amended Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to prohibit aid to Communist nations (which were cited for the first time by name), those countries providing items of strategic value to Cuba, and those countries which permitted ships under their registry to carry economic aid to Cuba, unless the President determined, among other things, that such aid was vital to U.S. security. Authorized appropriations totaling \$4,572,000,000 including \$600 million for the Alliance for Progress in each of the fiscal years 1963-1966, but stipulated that no funds, except \$100 million in fiscal 1963, could be used for other than dollar-payable loans. Approved August 1, 1962. (76 Stat. 255-263.)

Twenty-fourth Amendment. Provided that no citizen would be denied the right to vote by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax. Approved August 27, 1962. Ratified by the requisite number of States January 23, 1964. (76 Stat. 1259.)

Communications Satellite Act of 1962. Authorized the President to name of Group of incorporators to establish the Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT), a private commercial communication system and to arrange for an initial stock offering. Provided for the subsequent choice of 15 directors—three by the present, and six year to be elected annually by public stock holders and by communication carriers. Gave the President broad responsibility for aiding the corporation in the rapid development of a Satellite System and for supervising its international activities; directed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to provide satellite launching and others technical services on a reimbursable basis; and gave the FCC wide powers to regulate the corporation and the carriers in the interests of maximum competition, efficiency and economy. Approved August 31, 1962. (76 Stat. 419-427.)

Public Works Acceleration Act. Authorized an appropriation of \$900 million for immediate acceleration of job-creating Federal and local public works projects in areas with long-term high unemployment. Approved September 14, 1962. (76 Stat. 541-544)

United Nations Loan. Authorized a \$100 million loan to the United Nations. Further provided that the United States should use every efforts to promote a pattern of United Nations financing (including a vigorous program for collection of delinquencies on annual assessments on a current basis) that will avoid any future large-scale defects. Also instructed the Department of State to submit to Congress not later than January 31, 1963, a report on the steps taken by the United Nations General Assembly on long-term financing. Approved October 2, 1962. (76 Stat. 695-696.)

Drug Amendments of 1962. Amended the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to sharply strengthen Federal safety controls on drugs, authorized the standarization of drug names, and clarified and strengthened existing inspection authority. Approved October 10, 1962. (76 Stat. 780-796.)

Trade Expansion Act of 1962. Authorized the President to reduce duties by 50 percent between July 1, 1962 and June 30, 1967; to remove duties on entire categories of goods when the United States and members of the European Economic Community (at the time of negotiations) together accounted for 80 percent or more of the total free world trade; to cut or remove tariffs on agricultural products not meeting the 80 percent rule if necessary to maintain or expand United States farm exports; and eliminate tariffs on products currently dutiable at a rate of 5 percent or less. Also authorized the President to withdraw concessions to any country maintaining "unreasonable" restrictions against U.S. exports; to impose duties or other restrictions on imports from countries with burdensome restrictions against U.S. agricultural exports; to restrict imports if they threatened national security; and to raise tariffs in those instances where American workers and businesses might be injured. Approved October 11, 1962. (76 Stat. 872-903)

Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962. Authorized \$1,118,550,000 for Federal and Federal-aid highways in fiscal 1964 and \$1,165,000,000 for fiscal 1965. In addition authorized supplemental funds for fiscal 1963 of \$10 million for forest roads and \$6 million for public lands highways; authorized for fiscal 1964 only, \$850,000 to complete construction of Nicaragua's Rama Road, \$32 million to complete construction of the Inter-American Highway, and \$800,000 for an Alaska highway study. Approved October 23, 1962. (76 Stat. 1145-1149.)

EIGHTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS
January 9, 1963-October 3, 1964
(Administration of John F. Kennedy)
(First Administration of Lyndon B. Johnson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

President Kennedy's third year in office was distinguished by the first formal agreement over arms control between the United States and the Soviet Union, which resulted in Senate approval of the limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. In addition Congress passed equal-pay-for-women legislation.

After Kennedy was killed by an assassin's bullet on November 22, 1963, his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, called for the passage of a large part of the late President's programs. Within seven months, Congress had enacted the most sweeping civil rights legislation in American history, 10 different programs designed to wage Johnson's "War on Poverty," a major tax cut, a Federal pay bill, and a \$375 million Urban Transportation Act. By the end of 1964, several other new laws were to be written. These included an interest equalization tax to help solve the U.S. balance of payments problem, a permanent food stamp program, and a major extension and expansion of the National Defense Education Act.

Major natural resource measures enacted provided for the creation of a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, incorporation of federally held wilderness areas into a National Wilderness Preservation System, and establishment of a Land Conservation Fund to provide for future State and Federal recreational area needs. The Tonkin Gulf Resolution of August 10, 1964, put Congress on record in support of the Administration's war policy in Vietnam.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963. Gave statutory authority to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as a centralized planning agency with the responsibility for studying and encouraging coordinated and rapid development of recreational facilities at all levels of government. Approved May 28, 1963. (77 Stat. 49-50)

Equal Pay Act of 1963. Provided that no employer subject to the Federal Law Standard Statndards Act could discriminate on the basis of sex in payment of wages for jobs requiring equal skill, effort and responsibility. Permitted differences in wages based on seniority, merit, and piecework. Forbade employers from reducing the wages of any employee in order to comply, and Unions from urging employees to discriminate against employees on the basis of sex. Approved June 10, 1963. (77 Stat. 56-57)

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Bound the signatories, which included the United States, the U.S.S.R., and more than a hundred other nations, "to prohibit, to prevent, and not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion, or any other nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control (a) in the atmosphere, beyond its units including outer space, or underwater, including territorial water or high seas, or (b) in any other environment if such explosion causes radioactive debris to be present outside the territorial units of the state under whose jurisdiction or control such explosion is conducted." Signatories also pledged to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in any nuclear test anywhere else. Concluded August 5, 1963. Approved by the Senate September 24, 1963. (14 UST. 1313-1387)

Revenue Act of 1964. Reduced individual tax rates from the existing 20-to-91 percent to 16-to-77 percent in 1964 and to 14-to-70 percent in 1965. Reduced 18 percent withholding tax to 14 percent, and corporate tax rates from 52 to 48 percent. Tightened tax rules governing the operation of stock option plans, sick pay exclusions, and provided stricter limits on tax deductions resulting from casualty and theft losses. Increased taxes on the sale of a building resulting from "accelerated" depreciation practices, and reduced the capital gains tax on taxpayers 65 and older. Created a new deduction for moving expenses, liberalized child-care deductions, broadened investment tax credits, and provided a minimum standard deduction. Approved February 26, 1964. (78 Stat. 19-146)

Civil Rights Act of 1964. Expanded Federal powers to protect voting rights. Granted authority to the Justice Department to participate in a law suit involving the failures of State or local authorities to desegregate public accommodations, public facilities, and public schools. Outlawed discrimination in federally funded projects, and the denial of equal job opportunities in businesses and unions with more than 25 members. Also created a Community Relations Service and an Equal Opportunity Commission to end employment discrimination. Approved July 2, 1964. (78 Stat. 241-268)

Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964. Authorized the Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency to make \$375 million in Federal grants and loans to States and localities for acquiring, constructing and improving facilities and equipment for mass transportation systems owned, operated, leased, or otherwise used by a public transportation authority. Approved July 9, 1964. (78 Stat. 302-308)

Tonkin Gulf Resolution. Declared support for "the determination of the President, as Commander-in-Chief, to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression in Vietnam." Affirmed the United States determination to assist any member of protocol State of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty which requested aid in defense of its freedom. Approved August 10, 1964. (78 Stat. 384)

Government Employees Salary Reform Act of 1964. Provided \$536 million for salary increases for 1.7 million Federal employees covered by the five statutory pay systems; \$9.6 million to 7,643 legislative branch employees and 536 Members of Congress (including the Puerto Rican Resident Commissioner); \$3 million to 407 Federal and D.C. government executives; and \$8.2 million to 5,769 judicial branch employees and 486 Federal judges. Approved August 14, 1964. (78 Stat. 400-435)

Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Authorized 10 separate programs under the supervision of the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity designed to make a coordinated attack on the multiple causes of poverty. Together these programs were designed to alleviate the combined problems of illiteracy, unemployment and lack of public services which, according to the statistics of the Johnson Administration, left one-fifth of the Nation's population impoverished. Approved August 20, 1964. (78 Stat. 508-534)

Food Stamp Act of 1964. Provided for a permanent food-stamp program financed by the Federal Government. Authorized a \$375 million appropriation to cover the Federal costs of the program for the first three years (fiscal 1965-67). As enacted the program was intended to aid low-income families to improve their diets. Approved August 31, 1964. (78 Stat. 703-709)

Interest Equalization Tax. Imposed a tax of 15 percent of value on new issues of foreign stock and a similar tax on bonds geared to their maturity, generally effective July 19, 1963, and continuing to the end of 1965. Exempted from the tax were: new issues of any country if the President found the tax would imperil stability of the international monetary system; securities of less developed countries; direct investment by Americans in foreign companies; commercial bank loans; and a variety of specialized types of foreign securities. Approved September 2, 1964. (78 Stat. 809-847)

Wilderness Act of 1964. Established a National Wilderness Preservation System for land, water, mineral, and wildlife conservation purposes. Designated as part of the system, 9.1 million acres of National Forest lands which by administrative action had previously been classified as "wilderness," "wild," or "canoe areas." Approved September 3, 1964. (78 Stat. 890-896)

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. Created a Land and Water Conservation Fund, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, which would receive revenues from various Federal sources. Money from the fund could be used to make grants to the States to help acquire recreational land and to develop recreational facilities; and to finance acquisition of recreational land by Federal agencies. Designed to accelerate State and Federal acquisition of lands suitable for outdoor recreation while they were still available. Approved September 3, 1964. (78 Stat. 897-904)

National Defense Education Act Amendments. Extended the provisions of the 1958 National Defense Education Act to June 30, 1968. Broadened the act to cover important new academic objectives; extended school aid programs to "federally-impacted" areas for one year; and enacted an expanded library-services program. Raised NDEA student loans from the existing \$135 million to \$195 million by 1968, and fellowships from 1,500 to 7,500 by 1968. Approved October 16, 1964. (78 Stat. 1100-1109)

EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS
January 4, 1965-October 22, 1966
(Second Administration of Lyndon B. Johnson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Lyndon Johnson moved quickly following his landslide election in November 1964 to develop further his programs. During the next two years, the Administration's commitment to create a "Great Society" in the United States was carried out by the enactment of a far-reaching program of legislation.

Topping Johnson's list of recommendations was Medicare for the aged, and Medicaid for the "medically needy" which Congress approved in late July 1965. Other new programs in the field of health care which Congress enacted including a nationwide program of grants for the initial staffing of community medical centers, scholarships for needy medical and dental students, an expansion of the Federal effort to control the illicit distribution and use of psychotoxic drugs, a rehabilitation program for narcotics addicts, and the first overhaul of the vocational rehabilitation program since 1954.

Among the education initiatives approved was the first general school aid to elementary and secondary schools in the Nation's history, a wide-ranging program of aid to higher education, a National Teachers Corps to strengthen schools located in impoverished areas, and a National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities designed to develop for the first time a national policy of support for these activities.

In approving the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Congress enacted the most comprehensive legislation to assure the right to vote in 90 years. It also established two new Cabinet-level Departments—the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1965 and the Department of Transportation in 1966. After examining the Nation's ever increasing housing and transportation needs, Congress provided a \$7.8 billion appropriation to fund new and existing housing and urban development programs, a \$900 million "demonstration cities" plan for an intensive attack on urban blight, a three-year \$90 million study for studying the feasibility of high-speed ground transportation, a Highway Beautification Act, and a Highway Safety Act.

In July 1965, Congress sent the Twenty-fifth Amendment, providing the procedures to be followed in the event of a Presidential disability, to the States for their approval. A month later, the U.S. Code was amended, making it a Federal crime to kill, kidnap, or assault the President or any other Federal official in line to succeed to the presidency.

On Independence Day 1966 the Freedom of Information Act was signed into law. The Eighty-ninth Congress also eliminated many Federal excise taxes, created programs to combat water pollution, and further expanded the Government's responsibilities respecting endangered species of wildlife.

In addition, it authorized a five-year program designed to coordinate Federal activities relating to the elderly, gave Federal officials new authority to prevent unsound financial practices by banks and savings and loan associations, and provided a substantially higher minimum wage.

MAJOR ACTS

Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965. Authorized \$1,092,400,000 for development of the economically depressed 12-State Appalachian region. To achieve this end a Federal-State regional commission was created to help draw up coordinated regional economic development plans for the area; and authorization was provided for special Federal financial aid to help the area obtain the primary public facilities needed as a basis for economic expansion (such as roads and health facilities), and to help the area restore some of the natural resources ravaged by neglect and misuse (such as timber and water resources and land ruined by strip mining or poor agricultural practices). Approved March 9, 1965. (79 Stat. 5-23)

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Provided an estimated \$1.4 billion for the Nation's elementary and secondary schools. Made Federal grants available to the States for purchasing textbooks and other library materials, for supplementary community-wide educational centers, and for new research, training and research centers, and to strengthen State departments of education. Approved April 11, 1965. (79 Stat. 27-58)

Twenty-fifth Amendment. Provided that the Vice President should become Acting President under either of two circumstances. If the President informed Congress that he was unable to perform his duties, the Vice President would become acting President until the President could resume his responsibilities. If the Vice President and a majority of the Cabinet or such other body as Congress by law may provide found the President to be incapacitated, the Vice President would become Acting President until the President informed Congress that his disability had ended. Congress was given 21 days to resolve any dispute over the President's disability. Whenever a vacancy occurred in the office of Vice President, either by death, succession to the Presidency, or resignation, the President was to nominate a Vice President to be confirmed by a majority of both Houses of Congress. Approved July 6, 1965. Ratified by the requisite number of States February 10, 1967. (79 Stat. 1327-1328)

Older Americans Act. Authorized a five-year program designed to develop and improve programs to help older persons through grants to the States for community planning and services, and established an Administration on Aging within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Authorized Federal grants totaling \$17.5 million in fiscal 1966 and 1967 to States and to public and private non-profit organizations for developing programs for the elderly. Created an Administration on Aging in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, directed by a Commissioner on Aging appointed by the President and

confirmed by the Senate. The Administration was to serve as a clearinghouse for information on problems of the aged, assist the HEW Secretary on matters concerning the aged, administer grants under the Act, provide technical assistance to State and local governments, develop programs, materials, and statistics on the aged, and stimulate more effective use of existing programs. Approved July 14, 1965. (79 Stat. 218-226)

Drug Abuse Control Amendments of 1965. Expanded Federal control over depressant and stimulant drugs to reduce illegal distribution and use of barbiturates and drugs affecting the central nervous system or producing hallucinogenic effects. Strengthened the powers of Federal inspectors and enforcement agents, and limited prescription refills. Approved July 15, 1965. (79 Stat. 226-236)

Excise Tax Reduction Act of 1965. Repealed a variety of excise taxes resulting in a \$4.7 billion cut in Federal excise taxes between June 22, 1965, and January 1, 1969. Approved June 21, 1965. (79 Stat. 136-170)

Social Security Amendments of 1965 (Medicare for the Aged). Provided a federally supported hospital insurance program for about 19 million aged under the Social Security Act with a supplementary medical benefits program and an expanded program of medical insurance, to increase benefits under the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance System. Approved July 30, 1965. (79 Stat. 286-343) (Medicaid for the Medically Needy). Provided for medical care for the indigent through a system of Federal reimbursements to the States for medical aid outlays. Extended the Medical Assistance Program for the Aged to needy persons under the dependent children, blind, and permanently disabled programs. Approved July 30, 1965. (79 Stat. 343-353)

Voting Rights Act of 1965. Provided for direct Federal action to enable black Americans to register and vote, rather than the often-protected individual legal suits required by previous legislation. Suspended the use of literacy tests or similar voter qualification devices and authorized appointment of Federal voting examiners to order registration of Blacks in States and counties in which voter activity had fallen below certain specific levels. Other provisions established criminal penalties for interference with voter rights, outlined a judicial recourse for delinquent State and local governments, and directed the Attorney General to institute proceedings against the use of poll taxes. Approved August 6, 1965. (79 Stat. 437-446)

Health Research Facilities Amendments of 1965. Extended and expanded the existing program of making grants for construction of health research facilities at medical schools, universities, hospitals and other institutions. Provided a three-year authorization for the Public Health Service to enter into research contracts. Approved August 9, 1965. (79 Stat. 448-449)

Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965. Authorized an estimated \$7.8 billion to fund a variety of new housing and urban development programs and extended and broadened existing ones. Provided Federal rent supplements for families or individuals unable to afford standard private housing within their own incomes, and grants to local public bodies for urban beautification and improvement programs. Approved August 10, 1965. (79 Stat. 451-509)

President and Vice President Assassination Penalties. Amended the U.S. Code, making it a Federal crime to kill, kidnap or assault the President or any other Federal official and prescribed penalties for violation of this law. Approved August 28, 1965. (79 Stat. 580-581)

Department of Housing and Urban Development Act. Established a cabinet-level Department of Housing and Urban Development under a Secretary of HUD, appointed by the President with Senate confirmation. Gave to the Secretary all the powers, functions, and duties of the Housing and Home Finance Agency (HHFA) and its components which included the Federal Housing Administration, Public Housing Administration, the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Community Facilities Administration, and the Urban Renewal Administration. Approved September 9, 1965. (79 Stat. 667-671)

National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965. Established a National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities consisting of two autonomous subdivisions, a National Endowment for the Arts and a National Endowment for the Humanities. The operations of the Foundation were to be coordinated by a Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, composed of nine Federal officials (headed by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution), who would advise the chairmen of the arts and humanities endowments (who were members of the Council). Provided \$20 million in fiscal 1966 to be granted to organizations and individuals engaged in creative and performing arts, and to be granted or loaned for scholarships and research in the humanities. Approved September 29, 1965. (79 Stat. 845-855)

High-Speed Ground Transportation Act. Authorized the Secretary of Commerce to undertake a three-year, \$90 million research, development, and demonstration program in high-speed ground transportation to determine whether it could be made convenient, economical and attractive and meet the increasing transportation requirements of the rapidly expanding urban areas in the United States. Approved September 30, 1965. (79 Stat. 893-895)

Water Quality Act of 1965. Required the States to establish and enforce water quality standards for all interstate waters within their boundaries and authorized the Federal Government to take such action if the States did not. Established a Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, to provide grants for research and development, to increase grants for construction of sewage treatment works, and to require establishment of water quality criteria. Authorized appropriations of \$20 million a year in fiscal years 1966-69 for Federal matching grants to States, municipalities, and interstate or inter-municipal agencies for projects to help develop improved methods of preventing untreated sewage and wastes from being discharged into bays, rivers, etc. Also increased the existing \$100 million-a-year Federal grant program for construction of community sewage treatment plants to \$150 million a year. Approved October 2, 1965. (79 Stat. 903-910)

Highway Beautification Act of 1965. Authorized a new program for the scenic development and beautification of the Nation's Federal-aid highway system through removal of junkyards and landscaping of areas adjacent to the highways. In 1966, 1967 and 1968, however, Congress refused to authorize or appropriate funds to implement the provisions of the act. Approved October 22, 1965. (79 Stat. 1028-1033)

Higher Education Act of 1965. Appropriated \$840 million for extensive aid for poor and middle-class students who wished to attend college, and new programs of graduate study for public school teachers. Also authorized a National Teachers Corps designed to improve elementary and secondary education in city slums and impoverished rural areas by sending in teams of experienced teachers and several young graduate students to strengthen local school programs. Authorized funds for: community service programs focusing on urban problems to be conducted by colleges and universities; grants to improve college libraries and train librarians; a program to raise the academic quality of developing institutions; and equipment grants to improve classroom instruction in the sciences, humanities, arts and education. Approved November 8, 1965. (79 Stat. 1219-1270)

Freedom of Information Act. Required that the Federal government and its agencies to make available to citizens, upon request, all documents and records except those which fit in one of nine exempt categories. Among the exempted materials were documents relating to national security and foreign policy, internal personnel practices, information exempted by law, trade secrets, inter-agency and intra-agency memos, personnel and medical files, information relating to reports on financial institutions, law enforcement and investigatory information, and geological and geophysical information. Approved July 4, 1966. (89 Stat. 250-251)

Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1966. Continued and expanded programs begun under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964. Authorized annual appropriations of \$150 million in fiscal 1968 and 1969 for the program. Expanded the 1964 Act by authorizing use of grants for three new purposes: technical studies, research, and training in urban transportation problems. Approved September 8, 1966. (80 Stat. 715-717)

Highway Safety Act of 1966. Required that each State establish a highway safety program, in accordance with uniform government standards covering such areas as driver education, licensing, pedestrian performance, accident recordkeeping, accident investigation, vehicle registration and inspection, and highway design and maintenance. Authorized \$267 million in 1967-69 for matching-grants to the States for highway safety. Provided for a coordinated national highway traffic safety programs. Approved September 9, 1966. (80 Stat. 731-737)

Fair Labor Standards Amendments of 1966. Substantially broadened Federal minimum wage and overtime pay protection and increased the minimum wage from \$1.25 to \$1.60 and extended minimum coverage to an estimated 9.1 million additional employees, including for the first time some agricultural employees. Approved September 23, 1966. (80 Stat. 830-845) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in National League of Cities v. Usery, 426 U.S. 833 (1976).

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act. Directed the Secretary of Interior to take special actions to protect some 35 species of mammals and 30 to 40 species of birds which conservationists believed would otherwise become extinct. Also declared it the policy of Congress that the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and Defense and their Departments to

seek to protect endangered fish and wildlife species, including migratory birds, and where practicable and consistent with the primary purposes of their Departments, to preserve the habitats of threatened species on lands under their jurisdiction. Approved October 15, 1966. (80 Stat. 926-930)

Department of Transportation Act. Established the Department of Transportation as the 12th Cabinet-level department. Placed some 34 Federal agencies under direct control of the new Secretary of Transportation. Excluded from the Department were all economic regulatory and rate-setting activities of existing agencies. Approved October 15, 1966. (80 Stat. 931-950)

Financial Institutions Supervisory Act of 1966. Gave Federal bank regulatory agencies temporary new powers to stop or correct unsound financial practices. Raised from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per account the amount of Federal insurance on insured banks and savings and loan accounts. Empowered agencies to issue cease-and-desist orders against unsound practices at financial institutions and to remove bank and savings and loan association officials engaged in such practices. Specified that the authority granted by the Act to issue cease-and-desist orders and suspend and remove officers of financial institutions would expire June 30, 1972. Other provisions were permanent. Approved October 16, 1966. (80 Stat. 1028-1056)

Clean Water Restoration Act of 1966. Provided substantial amounts of money to help communities pay the costs of abiding by the purity standards stipulated in the Water Control Act of 1965. Established new programs of Federal grants for research on industrial water pollution and on advanced waste treatment and water purification methods. Approved November 3, 1966. (80 Stat. 1246-1254)

Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966. Designed to rebuild entire urban areas by tying together the wide array of existing Federal and local programs and new innovations by the participating communities for a coordinated attack on blight. (The program was later renamed "model cities.") Participating cities, to be selected under strict Federal standards, were to receive Federal funds equal to as much as 80 percent of the financial contribution which the cities were required to make (under existing law) as their share of federally assisted programs, in housing as well as other areas. To fund the demonstrations plan, the Act authorized Federal grants of \$24 million for planning the projects in fiscal 1967 and fiscal 1968; and an additional \$400 million in fiscal 1968 and \$500 million in fiscal 1969 for carrying out the plans. Approved November 3, 1966. (80 Stat. 1255-1296)

Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act of 1966. Authorized the commitment to institutional treatment and intensive follow-up care for three classes of addicts: those accused of a Federal crime, other than a crime of violence; those convicted of a Federal crime; and those charged with or convicted of no Federal crime, if the addict or a "related individual" requested such treatment. Authorized appropriations of \$15 million a year for fiscal years 1967 and 1968 for the Surgeon General to assist States and cities in developing narcotic treatment programs. Approved November 3, 1966. (80 Stat. 1296-1302)

NINETIETH CONGRESS
January 10, 1967-October 14, 1968
(Second Administration of Lyndon B. Johnson)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Lyndon Johnson's last two years (1967-68) in office were eventful. There was a rising wave of rioting and looting, the continuing bloodshed in Vietnam, rising inflation, and then the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Near the end of March 1968, just prior to the unfolding of these last two tragic events, Johnson announced his decision not to run for another term.

Senate approval of the first bilateral treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union on March 16, 1967, marked the first legislative endorsement of the Johnson Administration's policy of "building bridges" to the Communist world of the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe. A second major agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union occurred a little more than a month later when the Senate gave its unanimous consent to the ratification of a multilateral treaty governing the peaceful exploration of outer space.

An important part of the President's economic program for 1967 was embodied in the Investment Tax Credit Congress approved in June, provided for the restoration of the 7 percent tax credit and certain accelerated depreciation practices. Other notable legislative accomplishments in 1967 included approval for a nongovernmental corporation designed to improve educational television and radio, extension of the draft, stronger meat and poultry inspection requirements, an increase in postal rates, and boosts of Federal civilian and military pay. Spurred by the increasingly serious national air-pollution problem, Congress enacted the Air Quality Act in late November.

On April 11, 1968, the President signed the Nation's first open housing law, prohibiting discrimination in the sale or rental of most of the Nation's housing. The Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Control Act of July 31 authorized a 3-year, \$150 million program of Federal block grants to States and local governments for the planning and operation of preventative and rehabilitative programs, construction of facilities, training of personnel, and research into improved techniques and practices.

In September 1968, after more than two decades of bitter controversy, action was completed on a law authorizing construction of the huge Colorado River Basin Project. This \$1.3 billion appropriation became the largest reclamation program ever authorized in a single piece of legislation. A month later, Congress approved three far-reaching national resources acts—the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the National Trails System, and the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Also in 1968, Congress enacted a landmark housing and urban development bill; an across-the-board 13 percent increase in social security benefits; a program to hasten acquisition of lands authorized for use as Federal recreation areas; a strong truth-in-lending law; and crime and gun control bills. The 1968 Amendments to the Vocational Education and Vocational Rehabilitation Acts placed new emphasis on preparing the disadvantaged for productive work. Two other acts provided for the popular election of governors and lieutenant governors in Guam and the Virgin Islands.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

U.S.S.R. Consular Convention and Protocol. Detailed the legal framework and procedure for operation of consulates in the United States and the Soviet Union, if and when any consulates were established. Criminal and diplomatic immunity extended to consular employees. Also guaranteed to both countries quick access to any of their citizens arrested within the borders of the other country. Concluded June 1, 1964. Approved by the Senate March 16, 1967. (19 UST. 5018-5058)

Multilateral Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space Bodies. Established general principles for the peaceful international exploration and use of outer space (including the moon and other celestial bodies) and contained provisions for arms control in outer space, suspension of claims of national ownership or sovereignty, and the protection of astronauts. Obligated the signators (the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and 57 other nations) not to station in space or place into orbit any object carrying nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction (such as chemical or biological devices). Also prohibited weapons testing and military bases, fortifications, and maneuvers on celestial bodies. Concluded January 27, 1967. Approved by the Senate April 25, 1976. (18 U.S.T. 2410-2498)

Investment Tax Credit Act. Restored the 7 percent investment credit on the purchase of machinery and equipment and the allowance of accelerated depreciation in the case of certain real property. Approved June 13, 1967. (81 Stat. 57-58)

Military Service Act of 1967. Changed the name of the 1951 Universal Military Training and Service Act to the Military Service Act of 1967. Extended the President's authority to induct men into the armed services through July 1, 1971. Prohibited the President from instituting a draft lottery or other means of random selection of draftees without the specific approval of Congress. Approved June 30, 1967. (81 Stat. 100-106)

Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. Established a public corporation to provide financial assistance for noncommercial educational television and radio broadcasting and authorized \$9 million for fiscal 1968. Approved November 7, 1967. (81 Stat. 365-373)

Foreign Assistance Act of 1967. Reduced the annual authorization for the foreign aid program to the lowest level in the 20-year history of foreign aid. Attached several restrictive amendments that curbed the President's authority to conduct foreign policy. Prohibited all forms of aid under the Foreign Assistance acts to countries which traded with North Vietnam. Approved November 14, 1967. (81 Stat. 445-463)

Air Quality Control Act of 1967. Greatly enlarged existing Federal responsibility for air pollution control in the absence of meaningful State action. Authorized the expansion of existing Federal grants to States and local governments to assist in planning the implementation of air quality standards. Provided for the establishment of Federal interstate air quality planning agencies if the States failed to act, and an expanded research and development program for the control of pollution. Established a 15-member President's Air Quality Advisory Board, headed by the HEW Secretary or his designate, and authorized the creation of other advisory committees to assist the Secretary. Also authorized the establishment of air quality standards. Approved November 21, 1967. (81 Stat. 485-507)

Wholesale Meat Act. Declared it "essential in the public interest that the health and welfare of the consumers be protected by assuring that meat and meat food products distributed to them are wholesome, not adulterated, and properly marked, labeled, and packaged." Approved December 15, 1967. (81 Stat. 584-601)

Postal Revenue and Federal Salary Act of 1967. Combined three measures, postal increases on all classes of mail, a raise for Federal employees, and a liberalized Federal employee life insurance plan. Provided for automatic future pay increases which would not require congressional action. Approved December 16, 1967. (81 Stat. 613-648)

Military Pay Bill of 1967. Increased the monthly pay of servicemen, retroactive to October 1, 1967, by 4.5 percent for "regular compensation which included basic pay, quarters, and subsistence allowances. Also provided for automatic military pay raises in the future that would correspond to similar increases for Federal civilian employees—unless Congress took separate action on servicemen's salaries. Approved December 16, 1967. (81 Stat. 649-655)

Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments of 1967. Authorized appropriations totaling \$9,249,860,644 for fiscal 1969 and 1970 and added an additional \$132,884,000 to existing authorizations for fiscal 1968. New programs under the law authorized a bilingual education project for children from non-English speaking backgrounds, with additional fellowships awarded for teachers of these children; pilot projects to develop effective programs to prevent school dropouts; and technical assistance to rural schools that wished to apply for Federal aid. Approved January 2, 1968. (81 Stat. 783-820)

Social Security Amendments of 1967. Provided an across-the-board increase of 13 percent to all beneficiaries under old-age, survivors and disability insurance programs. Raised the monthly minimum benefit from \$44 to \$55. Increased and liberalized retirement benefits to persons 72 and over who had not met Social Security requirements, provided additional benefits to certain widows, widowers, and dependent children who had lost their parents. Approved January 2, 1968. (81 Stat. 821-935) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Richardson v. Davis, 409 U.S. 1069 (1972), Richardson v. Griffin, 409 U.S. 1069 (1972), and Califano v. Westcott, 443 U.S. 76 (1978).

Civil Rights Act of 1968. Prohibited discrimination in the sale or rental of about 80 percent of all housing. Provided criminal penalties for injuring or interfering with an individual's right to vote, to serve on a jury, to participate in government and government-aided programs, to work, to attend school, and to enjoy public accommodations. Approved April 11, 1968. (82 Stat. 73-92)

Consumer Credit Protection Act (Truth in Lending Act). Required that buyers be told the cost of loans and installment purchase plans in terms of annual rate calculated under certain specified procedures by all lenders and creditors. Required the lender or businessman to tell the customer the total cost in dollars of the credit being extended. No more than 25 percent of the worker's takehome (after deductions) could be garnisheed. In addition, the Act established a National Commission on Consumer Finance to study and make recommendations on the need for further regulation of the consumer finance industry. Approved May 29, 1968. (82 Stat. 146-167)

Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. Established a three-member Law Enforcement Assistance Administration within the Justice Department, to administer grant programs for training, education, research, and demonstration projects. Authorized law enforcement assistance grants to educate the public for riot control and prevention, to combat organized crime, and for correction, probation and parole services. Other provisions focused on confessions, wiretapping, and firearms control. Designed to assist State and local governments in reducing the incidence of crime, to increase the effectiveness, fairness, and coordination of law enforcement and criminal justice systems at all levels of Government. Approved June 19, 1968. (82 Stat. 197-239)

Revenue and Expenditures Control Act of 1968. Imposed a 10 percent surcharge on personal and corporate income taxes. Approved June 28, 1968. (82 Stat. 251-274)

Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments of 1968. Enlarged the scope of vocational education to permit assistance to disadvantaged, as well as physically and mentally handicapped persons. Defined disadvantaged persons as those hampered by such factors as youth, advanced age, poor education, police record, or ethnic or cultural conditions. Approved July 7, 1968. (82 Stat. 297-306)

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1968. Provided additional revenue, up to a total of \$200 million, for the Land and Conservation Fund. Stipulated that the responsibility for fixing and collecting admission and user fees be returned to individual Federal agencies and provided that all such fees (except ones earmarked for special purposes) be placed in a special Conservation Fund account for appropriation to the collecting agencies for any authorized outdoor recreation function without prejudice to appropriations from other sources for the same purposes. Approved July 15, 1968. (82 Stat. 354-356)

Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Control Act. Authorized a three-year, \$150 million program of block grants to plan and operate projects to prevent juvenile delinquency and rehabilitate young offenders. Grants were also given in some instances to local governments for the planning and operation of preventive and rehabilitation programs, construction of facilities, training of personnel, and research into improved techniques and practices. Approved July 31, 1968. (82 Stat. 462-474)

Housing and Urban Act of 1968. Enlarged the authorization for the rent supplement program and the model cities undertaking. Authorized a \$5.3 billion, three-year housing program designed to provide more than 1.7 million units of new and rehabilitated housing for low-income families. Major new programs authorized by the measure included Federal subsidies to help the poor buy their own homes and rent apartments, Federal underwriting of the insurance industry against riot losses, flood insurance for homeowners, and new urban renewal programs. Approved August 1, 1968. (82 Stat. 476-611)

Wholesome Poultry Products Act. Authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to work with State agencies to establish poultry inspection programs which were to be at least equal to Federal standards. Established criminal penalty provision for persons convicted of violating the Act. Approved August 18, 1968. (82 Stat. 791-808)

Virgin Island Elective Governor Act. Provided for the popular election of the governor and lieutenant governor of the Virgin Islands. Extended the privileges and immunity clauses, the due process and equal protection clauses of the U.S. Constitution to the people of the Virgin Islands. Made the Virgin Islands subject to the general military law of the United States (which authorized the President to use Federal local forces in case of insurrection or similar emergencies). Approved August 23, 1968. (82 Stat. 837-842)

Guam Elective Governor Act. Provided for the popular election of the governor and lieutenant governor of Guam. Extended certain provisions of the U.S. Constitution to the people of Guam. Made Guam subject to the general military law of the United States. Approved September 11, 1968. (82 Stat. 842-843)

Colorado River Basin Project Act. Authorized the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Central Arizona Project and related water projects on the Colorado River which were of immense importance to the States of the Southwest. Also authorized five reclamation projects on the western slope of

Colorado. Other provisions gave California an important water usage guarantee, relieved the Colorado River Basin States of responsibility for financing works to provide water due to Mexico under a 1944 treaty, and protected the Northwest for 10 years from studies of plans to divert some its water to the Southwest. Approved September 30, 1968. (82 Stat. 885-901.)

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Established a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to preserve outstanding stretches of rivers from incompatible water resource development, pollution, or commercialization. Approved October 2, 1968. (82 Stat. 906-918)

National Trails System Act. Established a nationwide system of scenic trails, recreational trails, and side trails. Approved October 2, 1968. (82 Stat. 919-926)

Vocational Education Act Amendments of 1968. Amended the Vocational Education Act of 1963 by increasing the funds available for and extending the length of certain programs available to students engaged in vocational education. Required that the States devote 40 percent of these funds for education of the physically handicapped and the disadvantaged and for post-high school courses. Approved October 16, 1968. (82 Stat. 1064-1098)

Gun Control Act of 1968. Banned most interstate shipments of long guns to individuals and prohibited individuals with few exceptions from buying guns except in their own States. Prohibited sale of rifles, shotguns or ammunition to persons under 18 and sales of handguns or handgun ammunition to persons under 21 years of age, and importation of foreign-made military surplus firearms into the United States. Approved October 22, 1968. (82 Stat. 1213-1236)

NINETY-FIRST CONGRESS
January 3, 1969-January 2, 1971
(First Administration of Richard M. Nixon)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Richard M. Nixon's inauguration on March 20, 1969, climaxed one of the great comeback stories in American political history. Still he was the first newly elected President in more than a century to be confronted by a Congress controlled by the opposition party. He was also assuming the Presidency after having narrowly been elected in a three-way contest in which he had received less than a majority of the popular vote and at a time when the Nation was deeply divided by its most unpopular recent war.

That fall, after some quarter of a million anti-war demonstrators descended upon Washington, the President announced there would be a gradual withdrawal of American troops in Vietnam. On December 17, 1969, Congress passed a bill authorizing the lowest amount of foreign economic and defense assistance in the history of the program.

During the ensuing debates on Capitol Hill over attempts to limit deployment of troops and additional funding for the Indochina war, the Senate twice voted to repeal the Tonkin Gulf resolution, and the House eventually agreed early in January 1971 to enact one such repeal into law.

Meanwhile, the Senate in March 1969, consented to the ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which when first submitted to the Senate, some eight months earlier, was hailed by then President Lyndon Johnson as the "most important international agreement in the field of disarmament since the nuclear age began."

On December 30, 1969, the most comprehensive revision of the tax code, which had taken seven months to complete, became law. Hours later, Congress approved the President Nixon's National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, establishing a Council on Environmental Quality to advise him on environmental matters.

During the second session of the Ninety-first Congress, a substantial record of domestic legislation was compiled. These included extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and granting 18-year-olds the right to vote in national elections, the establishment of a government-owned postal corporation, major air and water pollution control measures, the most comprehensive Federal law ever enacted to combat organized crime, a farm bill which placed a limit on subsidy payments, and an extension of employment compensation.

Concern for the Nation's children prompted the enactment of two major consumer protection bills aimed at more stringent controls on toys and dangerous substances containers. Late in December 1970, Congress cleared the first national occupational safety bill. Two critical transportation concerns were addressed by establishing an airport-airways development trust fund and a semi-private corporation to operate a nation-wide rail passenger service.

To insure customers against losses occurred when brokers became insolvent, action was completed on legislation creating a nonprofit Securities Investor Protection Agency. Removing a major exemption from the 1956 Bank Holding Company Act, Congress extended Federal regulation even to holding companies controlling only a single bank.

Other notable actions provided for an extension of the food stamp program; a Newspaper Preservation Act, allowing newspapers in the same city to pool their printing business if one was in danger of failing; an extensive urban mass transit act; a Community Development Corporation to carry out loan and grant programs for development of new communities.

The Legislative Reorganization Act of October 1970, embodying the first major congressional reforms in nearly a quarter of a century, were envisioned as a means of improving the operation of Congress. Agreement was also reached on the President's reorganization plans to set up an independent Environmental Protection Agency and a National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration in the Commerce Department.

MAJOR ACTS

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Banned the spread of nuclear weapons, provided for safeguard arrangements and ensured nondiscriminatory access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Signators included the United States, the Soviet Union, and 60 other nations. Concluded July 1, 1968. Approved by the Senate March 13, 1969. (21 UST 483-566)

Child Protection and Toy Safety Act of 1969. Provided a one-step regulation process for prohibiting the sale of children's articles and toys which presented electrical, mechanical, or thermal hazards. Any person adversely affected by such a determination could within 60 days seek review in a U.S. Court of Appeals. Required the repurchase of banned hazardous substances by their manufacturers or dealers. Approved November 6, 1969. (83 Stat. 187-190)

Tax Reform Act of 1969. Provided for the most comprehensive reform of the Nation's tax statutes in history and the largest tax cut since the Revenue Act of 1964. Increased personal income tax exemptions, lowered tax rates for single persons, repealed the 7-percent investment tax credit for machinery and equipment purchased, placed a minimum 10 percent tax on much income estate depreciation deductions, increased Social Security benefits by 15 percent. Approved December 30, 1969. (83 Stat. 487-742)

Foreign Assistance Act of 1969. Authorized foreign economic and military aid appropriations of \$1,972,525,000 in fiscal 1970 and \$1,936,525,000 in fiscal 1971. Created an Overseas Private Investment Corporation to assume investment promotion functions carried on by AID. Approved December 30, 1969. (83 Stat. 805-826)

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Declared that the Federal Government would "use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans." Established a three-member Council on Environmental Quality to advise the President on environmental matters. Approved January 1, 1970. (83 Stat. 852-856)

Federal Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970. Authorized the Federal Government to clean up disastrous oil spills which jeopardized the Nation's waters and beaches, with the polluter paying the costs, and placing new controls on sewage coming from vessels which fouled many of the Nation's marinas, harbors, and ports. Made petroleum companies liable for up to \$14 million in cleanup costs for oil spills. Strengthened restrictions on thermal pollution from nuclear power plants, and ordered development of criteria covering the effect of pesticides in streams, rivers, and other waters. Also created an Office of Environmental Quality to act as a staff for the President's Council on Environmental Quality established by Congress in 1969. Approved April 3, 1970. (84 Stat. 91-115)

Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970. Provided Federal aid for aviation facilities, and authorized a new low-range program for expansion of U.S. airport and airway systems. This program was to be financed in major part by new taxes on users of the aviation system. Revenues from the user charges would be paid into a trust fund in the U.S. Treasury similar to the existing Highway Trust Fund. Approved May 21, 1970. (84 Stat. 219-253)

Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970. Extended the Voting Rights Act of 1965 until 1975 and granted the right to vote in Federal, State and local elections to citizens between the ages of 18 and 21. Approved June 22, 1970. (84 Stat. 314-319) Subsequently, the Supreme Court on December 21, 1970, by a 5-4 decision, held that Congress had the power to lower the voting age to 18 for Federal but not State and local elections. Oregon v. Mitchell, 400 U.S. 112 (1970).

Newspaper Preservation Act. Exempted from the antitrust laws certain combinations and arrangements necessary for the survival of failing newspapers, and allowed competing newspapers in the same city to pool their printing and business operations if one of them were in danger of failing. Approved July 24, 1970. (84 Stat. 466-467)

Postal Reorganization Act. Reorganized the Post Office Department and the U.S. Postal Service into an independent agency, the United States Postal Service. Viewed as the final stage of an effort to re-establish the ailing postal system on an efficient, financially sound, businesslike basis. Approved August 12, 1970. (84 Stat. 719-787)

Organized Crime Control Act. Strengthening the legal tools of those engaged in the evidence-gathering process involving organized crime by writing new witness-immunity guidelines. Authorized the detention of recalcitrant witnesses for up to 18 months, conviction for perjury based on obvious contradictory statements made under oath, the attorney general to protect and maintain Federal or State witnesses (and their families) in organized crime cases, and the use of depositions in criminal cases subject to constitutional guarantees. Declared that it was a crime to use income from organized crime to acquire, establish, or operate a business engaged in interstate commerce, and prescribed use of forfeiture antitrust devices, special investigative procedures and damage suits against such crimes. Established new penal prohibitions, and by providing enhanced sanctions and new remedies for dealing with the unlawful activities of those engaged in organized crime. Approved October 15, 1970. (84 Stat. 922-962)

Urban Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1970. Authorized \$3.1 billion in grants and loans for State and local governments for mass transportation. Also expressed the findings of Congress that at least \$10 billion in Federal funds would be needed over the 12-year period beginning in fiscal 1971 for urban mass transportation programs. Approved October 15, 1970. (84 Stat. 962-969)

Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970. Revised committee procedures in the House and the Senate, required that teller votes be recorded by name, and made committee votes public. Directed the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to set up and maintain a standardized data processing system for Federal budgetary and fiscal data. Redesignated the Legislative Reference Service of the library of Congress the Congressional Research Service and redefined its duties to further assist congressional committees by providing research and analytical services, records, documents, and other information and data, including memoranda on proposed legislation; and authorized the expansion of its staff resources. Created a Joint Committee on Congressional Operations to continue the study of the operations and organization of Congress and to recommend improvements. Approved October 26, 1970. (84 Stat. 1140-1204)

Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970. Amended the Public Health Service Act and other laws to provide expanded programs of rehabilitation, treatment and drug abuse education, to unify and revise Federal narcotics laws, to revise the entire penalty structure for violations of those laws and to provide new jobs for enforcement. Approved October 27, 1970. (84 Stat. 1236-1296)

Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970. Provided financial assistance for and establishment of a semipublic corporation to operate a nationwide rail system beginning May 1, 1971. Federal funds were authorized to launch and back the National Railroad Passenger Corporation which was to be governed by a fifteen-member board of directors, eight of whom are to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Approved October 30, 1970. (84 Stat. 1327-1342)

Agriculture Act of 1970. Established three-year price support programs for dairy products, wool, wheat, feed grains and cotton. Limited the subsidy payments to \$55,000 per producer under the wheat, feed grain, and cotton programs for the 1971 through 1973 crops. Exempted from the payment limitation lands owned by States and political subdivisions and their agencies as long as the lands were farmed primarily in the furtherance of a public function. Also extended for three years, through 1973, the Food for Peace program which made farm produce available to underdeveloped countries. Approved November 30, 1970. (84 Stat. 1358-1384)

Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Gave the Secretary of Labor the authority to set and enforce safety standards for the protection of workers and created a three-member commission to enforce regulations. Authorized the enforcement of certain stipulated safety standards applicable to all working conditions and provided for research, information, education, and training in the field of occupational safety and health. Coverage was extended to about 55 million industrial, farm and construction workers employed by firms engaged in interstate commerce. Approved December 29, 1970. (84 Stat. 1590-1620) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Marshall v. Barlow's, Inc., 436 U.S. 307 (1978).

Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970. Established a private nonprofit Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SLPC) to oversee the activities of registered brokers and dealers and members of national securities exchanges. It also created an insurance fund to protect investors against losses up to \$40,000 occurring when brokers become insolvent. This fund was to be financed through a combination of existing stock exchange trust funds, assessments, and lines of bank credit. Approved December 30, 1970. (84 Stat. 1636-1657)

Poisoning Prevention Packing Act of 1970. Required special packing of potentially dangerous household goods to protect children from serious injury or illness resulting from handling, using, or ingesting such substances. Approved December 30, 1970. (84 Stat. 1670-1674)

Clean Air Amendments of 1970. Established specific deadlines for a 90 percent reduction of certain pollutants from new automobiles. Provided for new research programs, establishment of national air quality standards, fuel limitations, and standards for new stationary sources of pollution. Approved December 31, 1970. (84 Stat. 1676-1713)

Bank Holding Company Act Amendments of 1970. Placed holding companies which controlled a single bank under the regulatory authority of the Federal Reserve Board and required that they divest themselves of most nonbanking business. Extended the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, which provided for regulation of holding companies controlling more than one bank, to the one-bank companies. Approved December 31, 1970 (84 Stat. 1760-1769)

Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970. Authorized the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to write insurance against such crimes as theft, burglary, and robbery when State and Federal reinsurance programs were

unavailable or where existing rates were prohibitive. Established a maximum rent of 25 percent of a family's income for public housing and annual Federal contributions to cover the difference between the rent income and operating costs. Required a biennial report by the President on urban growth, provided new Federal assistance for the establishment of new communities, and created a Community Development Corporation within HUD to coordinate new-community development. Approved December 31, 1970. (84 Stat. 1770-1817)

Food Stamp Act of 1964 Amendments. Enlarged the food stamp program and extended it for an additional three years. Included a new Administration proposal for free stamps for families with monthly incomes under \$30, and contained a restrictive new work requirement. Required that recipients register for and accept employment as a condition of receiving stamps. Approved January 11, 1971. (84 Stat. 2048-2052) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Department of Agriculture v. Moreno, 413 U.S. 528 (1973), and Department of Agriculture v. Murray, 413 U.S. 508 (1973).

Foreign Military Sales Act, Amendments. Provided for many alterations in the law concerning the sale of arms to foreign nations, with a view to placing certain limits on such distribution. Also repealed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution of August 10, 1964. Approved January 12, 1971. (84 Stat. 2053-2055)

Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970. Consolidated all major programs to combat pollution in a single independent Environmental Protection Agency. It was to be comprised of the Federal Water Control Administration and certain pesticide research programs, formerly in the Interior Department; the National Air Pollution Control Administration as well as parts of the Environmental Control Administration and Food and Drug Administration, all formerly in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; the pesticides registration authority of the Department of Agriculture; the standard-setting functions of the Atomic Energy Commission; the Federal Radiation Council's functions, and certain research authority of the Council on Environmental Quality. Transmitted July 9, 1970. Effective December 2, 1970. (84 Stat. 2086-2089)

Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970. Created a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Commerce Department, consolidating the following: the Environmental Science Services Administration, which included the Weather Bureau, the Coast Guard and Geodetic Survey, the Environmental Data Service, and the National Environmental Satellite Center and research laboratories of the Commerce Department; the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the marine sports program of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and the marine minerals technology program of the Bureau of Mines, formerly of the Interior Department; the Office of Sea Grant Programs, formerly in the National Science Foundation; sections of the U.S. Lake Survey, formerly in the Army Corps of Engineers; the National Oceanographic Data Center and the National Oceanographic Instrumentation Center, formerly in the Navy Department; and the U.S. Coast Guard's national data buoy program, formerly in the Department of Transportation. Transmitted July 9, 1970, Effective October 3, 1970. (84 Stat. 2090-2093)

NINETY-SECOND CONGRESS
January 21, 1971-October 18, 1972
(First Administration of Richard M. Nixon)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The last two years of Nixon's first term as President were marked by innovation and change. On March 23, 1971, the Twenty-sixth amendment, lowering the voting age to 18, was sent to the States, which quickly ratified it within three and a half months. At the request of the White House, Congress in August 1971 approved legislation authorizing a Federal loan guarantee of \$250 million in commercial bank loans for the financially troubled Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, the Nation's largest defense contractor.

Congress the following February enacted the Federal Election Campaign Act, which placed a ceiling on the amount of money a candidate for President, Vice President, or Congress could spend for radio and television time and other forms of political advertising, and required full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures. For the first time in history, Congress a month later sent a constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights for women to the States for ratification.

Nixon's historic trips to Peking and Moscow in 1972, marked the first state visit by an American President to either country. His stay in mainland China ended more than two decades of official U.S. hostility towards the People's Republic of China. These talks concluded with both the President and Communist Party Chief Mao Tse-tung agreeing on the need for increased contacts between the two nations. Three months later, in Moscow, Richard Nixon signed seven agreements with the Soviet Union, including two nuclear arms control accords.

On August 3, 1972, the Senate ratified the first of the two strategic arms limitation agreements, which had been reached with the Soviet Union the previous May. With this action the two super powers were each limited to two anti-ballistic missile sites. The second accord, approved by Congress on September 30, 1972, authorized the President to accept a five-year interim agreement on offensive nuclear weapons between the United States and the Soviet Union, after adopting several amendments to the resolution.

Overriding the President's veto in October, Congress provided the most comprehensive and expensive environmental legislation in the Nation's history in the Federal Water Pollution Act Amendments of 1972. Four additional environmental measures completed at the same time established a national program for the management, use, and protection of the America's coastal zones and estuaries; granted authority for the Federal Government to regulate the

dumping of materials in the oceans and coastal waters; established the first comprehensive Federal regulatory program to control noise; and the first major change in pesticide regulation in 25 years.

By the time the 92th Congress finally adjourned late on October 18, the President had also been granted the authority to freeze wages, prices, and rents; to begin the implementation of general revenue-sharing with the States; to develop a new space-shuttle program; and to create a Consumer Product Safety Commission.

In addition legislation was also enacted to further enhance the quality of life in rural America, bring about a settlement of the Alaska Native claims which had remained unresolved for more than 100 years, and provide for election of nonvoting delegates to the House from Guam and the Virgin Islands.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Twenty-sixth Amendment. Lowered the voting age to 18 in all Federal, State, and local elections. Originally this right had been extended as part of the 1970 Voting Right Act Amendments, but portions of that statute were nullified when the Supreme Court ruled that Congress had the power to make the change only for Federal contests. Approved March 23, 1971. Ratified by the requisite number of States June 30, 1971. (85 Stat. 825-825)

Emergency Loan Guarantee Act. Authorized a Federal guarantee of up to \$250 million in bank loans for the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. Approved August 9, 1971. (85 Stat. 178-182)

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Settled the claim of Alaska's Native Indians, Aleut, and Eskimo population to the aboriginal lands on which they had lived for generations. Provided that the Natives would receive title to a total of 40 million acres and were to share in a payment of \$462,500,000, and \$500 million in mineral rights derived from specified Alaskan lands. Approved December 18, 1971. (85 Stat. 688)

Economic Stabilization Act Amendments of 1971. Extended the President's authority to control wages, salaries, prices, and rents through April 30, 1973, and broadened the President's stabilization powers to include control of interest rates, finance charges, corporate dividends, and similar transfers. Established an emergency court of appeals composed of three or more Federal judges to be designated by the Chief Justice, with exclusive jurisdiction over appeals from the district courts and challenges on constitutional questions. Approved December 22, 1971. (85 Stat. 743-755)

Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971. Placed a ceiling on the amount of money a candidate for President, Vice President, the House, or the Senate could spend for radio and television time, and other forms of political advertising, and required full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures. Restricted candidates to a maximum of 10 cents per eligible voter, or \$50,000 whichever was greater, for all forms of media advertising. Approved February 7, 1972. (86 Stat. 3-20) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976).

Proposed Equal Rights Amendment. Would ensure, if ratified by the requisite number of States, that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States on account of sex," and would give "Congress and the several States power within their respective jurisdictions, to enforce the article by appropriate legislation." Approved March 23, 1972. (86 Stat. 1523-1524) On October 20, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution (even though his approval was not required) granting States an additional 39 months to ratify the proposed Amendment. (92 Stat. 3799) On June 30, 1982 the Amendment officially died three States short of the 38 need for ratification.

Delegates to the House of Representatives from Guam and the Virgin Islands. Provided for the election of nonvoting delegates to the House of Representatives from Guam and the Virgin Islands. Approved April 10, 1972. (86 Stat. 118-119)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 1972. Authorized \$3,444,150,000 for NASA in fiscal 1973. Included within this authorization was \$227.9 million for the space shuttle program. Approved May 19, 1972. (86 Stat. 157-162)

U.S.-U.S.S.R. Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems Treaty. Limited the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to two anti-ballistic missile sites. Concluded May 26, 1972. Approved by the Senate August 3, 1972. (23 UST. 3435-3461)

Rural Development Act of 1972. Provided for the expansion of various existing programs and authorized numerous new programs designed to improve job opportunities, increase incomes, and generally enhance the quality of life in rural America. Approved August 30, 1972. (86 Stat. 657-677)

U.S.-U.S.S.R. Strategic Arms Limitation Act. Approved and authorized Presidential acceptance of a five-year interim agreement on offensive nuclear weapons between the United States and the Soviet Union; after several amendments the resolution was adopted. Approved September 30, 1972. (86 Stat. 746-747)

Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. Initiated a major change in the basic Federal approach to water pollution by adding strict limits on what could be discharged into waterways to existing standards for water quality. Set a national goal of eliminating all pollutant discharges into U.S. waters by 1985 and an interim goal of making the waters safe for fish, shellfish, wildlife and people by July 1, 1983. Provided funds for comprehensive programs for water pollution control, interstate cooperation and uniform laws, grants for research and development and pollution control programs, and area-wide treatment management. Approved October 18, 1972. (86 Stat. 816-903)

State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972. Established a five-year program of general revenue sharing to distribute \$30.2 billion in unrestricted funds to States and localities over a period of five years. Created a State and Local Government Fiscal Assistance Trust Fund wherein the annual appropriations for Federal-State revenue sharing would remain available without fiscal limitations. Approved October 20, 1972. (86 Stat. 919-947)

Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972. Broadened the Government's authority to control the vast array of pesticides and other pest killers, and required that all pesticides be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency whose responsibility it would be to control the manufacture, distribution, and use of pesticides. Approved October 21, 1972. (86 Stat. 973-999)

Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. Banned the unregulated dumping of waste materials into the oceans and coastal waters to protect human health and welfare, the marine environment, and the economic potential of ocean resources. Also banned the transportation out to sea or dumping under any circumstances of radiological, chemical or biological warfare agents, or high-level radioactive water. Approved October 23, 1972. (86 Stat. 1052-1063)

Consumer Product Safety Act. Created an independent Consumer Product Safety Commission authorized to set standards for a wide variety of consumer products and to ban those products that presented an unreasonable risk of injury. Approved October 27, 1972. (80 Stat. 1207-1233)

Noise Control Act of 1972. Gave the Federal Government the authority to set standards limiting certain commercial sources of noise, such as construction and transportation equipment, motors, engines, and electrical or electronic devices. Directed the Environmental Protection Agency to propose noise standards for aircraft, but left final authority to review and reject standards which it found unsafe or impractical with the Federal Aviation Administration. Approved October 27, 1972. (86 Stat. 1234-1250)

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. Established a national program for the management and protection of U.S. coastal waters and adjacent shorelines. Authorized Federal grants to the States to help them develop coastal management programs under Federal guidelines. Directed the Secretary of Commerce to consult and cooperate with other Federal agencies in carrying out his responsibilities under the Act. Approved October 27, 1972. (86 Stat. 1280-1289)

NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS
January 3, 1973-December 20, 1974
(Second Administration of Richard M. Nixon)
(Administration of Gerald R. Ford)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Congress from 1973 through 1974 worked amidst unprecedented political turmoil. Ultimately, the impeachment crisis of Richard M. Nixon culminated with the succession of Gerald R. Ford to the Presidency. Spiro T. Agnew's resignation as Vice President was followed by the succession first of Mr. Ford and then, after Ford became President, of Nelson Rockefeller to that office.

At the same time, American participation in the war in Southeast Asia continued. By July 1973, Congress--aroused by considerable discontent with the prosecution of the American war effort there--approved legislation calling for a halt of the bombing of Cambodia by August 15. In November, Congress overrode the President's veto of the War Powers Resolution setting a 60-day limit on commitment of U.S. troops abroad without congressional consent.

Despite the preoccupation offered by these domestic and foreign events, Congress took many other legislative initiatives. With the completion of the Agricultural and Consumer Protection Act of August 1973, it overhauled the farm subsidy program. Three days later, a \$20 billion highway and mass transit bill was passed which for the first time allowed highway trust funds to be used for urban mass transit facilities. On November 16, authorization for immediate construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline was signed by the President. Late in December the Endangered Species Act of 1973 was signed into law.

As the Nation faced the imminent collapse of the Penn Central Railroad the following January, legislation was approved creating an independent Federal agency to issue \$1.5 billion in loans to design a new rail network for the Northeast and the Midwest. In April, President Nixon signed into law a bill raising the minimum wage in a series of steps from \$1.60 an hour to \$2.30 an hour.

Following the Arab oil embargo, which extended from October 18, 1973, to March 18, 1974, Congress responded to Nixon's request and approved the creation of a "temporary" Federal Energy Administration and a new Energy Research and Development Administration.

Shortly before President Nixon's departure from the White House the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 was approved, providing for means for Congress to enhance its control over Federal spending and to regulate the impoundment of funds by the Executive Branch.

Following Gerald Ford's assumption of the Presidency after Richard Nixon's resignation, Congress during the last five months of 1974, set up an independent Government corporation to provide legal services for the poor, approved a four-year extension of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, enacted the first major housing bill since 1968, completed work on a six-year \$11.9 billion program to aid mass transit systems, and passed a bill establishing Federal standards for private pensions.

With the concerns of the Watergate scandal still fresh in mind, President Ford in mid-October signed a campaign finance bill setting limits on political contributions and spending, and mandating the first use of public funds to finance Presidential election campaign costs. On November 21, Congress overrode the President's veto of a major expansion of the Freedom of Information Act.

Responding to the Nation's deteriorating economic situation, Congress enacted three bills aimed at bolstering the economy and sent them to the White House hours before it adjourned on December 20. These measures were to set up an emergency public jobs program, extend unemployment compensation to nearly 12 million persons not otherwise eligible, and authorize an extra 13 weeks of unemployment compensation beyond that already provided for by law. On the the last day of the session, the Trade Act of 1974 was approved after Congress and the Administration resolved a lengthy controversy over congressional insistence that trade benefits for the Soviet Union be conditioned upon more liberal Soviet emigration policies.

MAJOR ACTS

Second Supplemental Appropriation Act. In part banned the use of any previously appropriated funds from being used to support United States combat activities in or over Cambodia and Laos after August 15, 1973. Approved July 1, 1973. (87 Stat. 129)

Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973. Sought to establish a new program designed to help resolve food shortages in other parts of the world and to produce high market prices for farm commodities. Increased the price supports for milk and ordered the Secretary of Agriculture to make a comprehensive study of dairy imports and present his findings by January 1, 1975. Set a subsidy ceiling on payments under the Act of \$20,000 a year for each farmer. Extended the Food for Peace and food stamp programs as well as the cotton, wheat and feed grain programs. Authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into long-term land use contracts with farmers and land owners to deal with conservation and pollution problems. Also authorized a forestry incentive program under which farmers and landowners would be encouraged to increase timber production and protect privately held forest lands. Approved August 10, 1973. (87 Stat. 221-250)

Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973. Permitted, for the first time, the use of highway funds for mass transit projects. Authorized \$18.35 billion for the Interstate Highway System over fiscal years 1974-79. Extended the time of completion of the interstate system for one year, until June 30, 1979. Approved August 13, 1973. (87 Stat. 250-296)

War Powers Resolution. Limited the President's powers to commit United States forces abroad without congressional approval. Defined the legal rights of Congress and the President in such matters, urging the President "in every possible instance" to consult with Congress before committing U.S. forces to hostilities or situations where hostilities might be imminent, and to consult with Congress regularly after such a commitment. Required the termination of a troop commitment within 60 days, unless Congress declared war, specifically authorized continuation of the commitment, or was physically unable to convene as a result of an armed attack upon the United States. The 60-day period could be extended for up to an additional 30 days if the President determined and certified to Congress that unavoidable military necessity respecting the safety of the U.S. forces required their continued use to bring about a prompt disengagement. Approved November 7, 1973. (87 Stat. 555-560)

Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act. Directed the Secretary of the Interior to immediately authorize the construction of the 789-mile pipeline connecting the North Shore of Alaska with the port of Valdez. Provided that all actions necessary for completion of the pipeline be taken without further delay under the National Environmental Act of 1969. Restricted judicial review of the Act to its constitutionality, to actions under the Act which violated constitutional rights, and actions which went beyond the authority granted by this Act. Directed the President to ensure equitable allocation of Alaskan North Slope crude oil among all regions of the United States. Approved November 16, 1973. (87 Stat. 584-588)

Endangered Species Act of 1973. Extended Federal authority to species "threatened" with extinction as well as those in immediate danger of becoming extinct. Made it a Federal offense to take (hunt, trap, capture, etc.), buy sell, or transport them in interstate commerce; and import or export endangered or threatened species or products made from them. Established fines of \$10,000 for violation of the act committed knowingly by commercial operators, \$5,000 for violations of regulations, and \$1,000 for violations committed unknowingly. Provided for the conservation of threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife and plants by Federal action and by encouraging the establishment of State programs. Approved December 28, 1973. (87 Stat. 884-903)

Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973. Established the United States Railway Association, an independent Federal agency, to plan the consolidation of seven bankrupt railroad lines in the Northeast and Midwest--the Ann Arbor, Boston & Maine, Central of New Jersey, Erie Lackawanna, Lehigh Valley, Penn Central, and Reading Railroads--into one giant corporation. Authorized the association to issued federally guaranteed loans up to \$1.5 billion to help

the new corporation take over the choice routes operated by the bankrupt companies, repair track, and run the system. Also authorized \$43.5 million to design the new system, \$85 million to keep the existing railroad companies running while the plan was being developed, \$250 million to pay the benefits of those who lost their jobs under the reorganization, and \$180 million for operating subsidies. Approved January 2, 1974. (87 Stat. 985-1023)

Fair Labor Standard Amendments of 1974. Increased the hourly minimum for most non-farm workers to \$2.00 as of May 1, 1974, to \$2.10 on January 1, 1975, and to \$2.30 on January 1, 1976. Minimum rates for farm workers were similarly raised from \$1.30 to \$2.30 an hour in five stages over a longer period of time. Extended coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act to approximately seven million additional employees. Approved April 8, 1974. (88 Stat. 55-76)

Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974. Reorganized and consolidated certain functions of the Federal Government in the new Federal Energy Administration to manage short-term fuel shortages. Appropriated \$75 million for fiscal 1974 and \$200 million for fiscal 1975-76. Provided that the Act would expire June 30, 1976. Approved May 7, 1974. (88 Stat. 96-115)

Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974. Established House and Senate Budget Committees to study the President's budget and recommend changes in fiscal policy and spending priorities. Created a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to assist the Budget Committees in studying budget information. Defined procedures which provided for more congressional control over the impoundment of funds by the executive branch. Approved July 12, 1974. (88 Stat. 297-339)

Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974. Transferred the legal services program from the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to an independent Legal Services Corporation to provide legal assistance to the poor in non-criminal proceedings. Set up an 11-member board of directors for the corporation, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate; at least six were to be lawyers and no more than six were to be members of the same party. Exempted employees of the corporation from laws and Executive orders affecting Federal agencies but stipulated that they be considered Federal employees for pension and other benefits. Approved July 25, 1974. (88 Stat. 378-390)

Education Amendments of 1974. Provided a four-year \$25.2 billion extension of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Revised the way in which compensatory education aid for disadvantaged students, the largest program of Federal aid to elementary and secondary schools, was distributed. Made new Federal commitments in two areas--bilingual education programs and Federal aid programs for education of the handicapped--where the courts had ruled that public schools must provide more adequate education. Consolidated seven categorical grant programs into two broader ones, giving the States somewhat more discretion than they had had over how the money was spent. Approved August 21, 1974. (88 Stat. 484-613)

Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Created a new rental assistance program for low- and moderate-income families. Consolidated 10 urban development programs into a single block grant program which offered local governments \$8.6 billion over three years for community development activities. Also required communities to "give maximum feasible priority" to spending at least 80 percent of their grant funds on programs directly benefiting low- and moderate-income families or helping deteriorating areas and generally limiting spending for public services to 20 percent of the total grant. Approved August 22, 1974. (88 Stat. 633-741)

Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Established minimum Federal standards for private pensions. This Act, the first regulatory effort in this area, aimed to safeguard the pension rights of at least 23 million workers covered by private pension systems. While the new law did not require firms to provide pension funds for their employees, those that did had to adhere to Federal rules. Also established the rules which had to be followed by pension fund trustees. A major innovation was a provision which allowed an individual not covered by a pension plan to establish his own retirement account that could qualify for special tax treatment. Approved September 2, 1974. (88 Stat. 829-1035)

Energy Reorganization Act of 1974. Created a new Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) to direct Federal research into the better use of existing fuels and the development of new sources of energy. ERDA took over most of the functions of the old Atomic Energy Commission, which was abolished by the act, plus programs from the Interior Department, the National Science Foundation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Approved October 11, 1974. (88 Stat. 1233-1254)

Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974. Established spending limits for candidates involved in primary and general elections for the Presidency, Senate, and House. Introduced public financing in Presidential primary campaigns by establishing Federal matching grants for individual contributions of \$250 or less, and public funding for Presidential nominating conventions. Supplemented provisions of the public funding of Presidential general elections including in the Revenue Act of 1971. (85 Stat. 562-574) Set contribution limits for individuals as well for political committees, and national and State party organizations. Stipulated specific disclosure and reporting requirements and established the Federal Election Commission to administer and enforce the campaign finance laws. Approved October 15, 1974. (88 Stat. 1263-1304) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976).

Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1974. Allowed Federal judges for the first time to review decisions by the Government to classify certain materials and order payment of attorneys' fees and court costs for plaintiffs who won suits seeking information under the act. Set deadlines for agencies to respond to a request for information under the law and required that they publish a uniform set of fees for providing documents. Required agencies to publish their indexes of final opinions on settlements of internal cases, policy statements, and administrative staff manuals, or if they were not published to furnish them upon request to any person for cost of duplication. Approved November 21, 1974. (88 Stat. 1561-1565).

National Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1974. Authorized \$11.9 billion over six years to help the Nation's financially troubled urban mass transit systems meet their increasing operating and capital expenses, including \$7.8 billion for capital grants and \$4 billion that could be used either for operating or capital needs. Approved November 26, 1974. (88 Stat. 1565-1575)

Emergency Jobs and Unemployment Assistance Act of 1974. Established an emergency program of public service jobs in State and local governments and provided unemployment insurance coverage to nearly 12 million persons not otherwise eligible. These persons were primarily State and local government employees. Approved December 31, 1974. (88 Stat. 1845-1855)

Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 1974. Authorized an extra 13 weeks of unemployment compensation for those workers who had exhausted their regular and extended unemployment benefits. Stated that the maximum duration of jobless benefits would depend upon the economic conditions in individual States, and only those States with insured unemployment rates of at least 6 percent would be eligible for the full 65 weeks of benefits. Approved December 31, 1974. (88 Stat. 1869-1872)

Trade Act of 1974. Provided the President with broad authority to enter into trade agreements with other countries for the purpose of harmonizing, reducing or eliminating tariff and nontariff trade barriers. Established a congressional approval procedure, requiring action by both Houses for all nontariff barrier trade agreements. Approved January 3, 1975. (88 Stat. 1978-2076)

NINETY-FOURTH CONGRESS
January 14, 1975-October 1, 1976
(Administration of Gerald R. Ford)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As one of its first orders of business in 1975, Congress quickly approved an emergency \$22.8 billion tax reduction on March 26. In December the tax cuts were extended for an additional six months. The Tax Reform Act of October 1976 imposed new curbs on investments in tax shelters, increased taxes on the wealthy and made important changes in estate and gift taxation. In addition this latter Act repealed and revised obsolete sections in the U.S. Tax Code.

Late in May 1975, some three weeks after the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong took control of all South Vietnam, Congress sent to the President legislation appropriating \$405 million for the resettlement of more than 100,000 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees in the United States. A year later the same assistance was authorized for Laotian refugees--transportation, resettlement, and reimbursements to the States for health, education, and public assistance expenses.

Legislation was approved for the first time in June 1976 authorizing congressional review of commercial U.S. arms sales to foreign nations. That September, funds were appropriated for procurement of the Air Force's B-1 Bomber in such a way that the winner of the November Presidential election could make the final decision on whether to proceed with production of the plane.

Amid rapidly increasing national unemployment, Congress in mid-June 1975 appropriated \$473,350,000 for an estimated 840,000 summer jobs for youth. Less than two weeks later, \$1.625 billion was appropriated for public service jobs. In October 1976 appropriations for extension of the emergency public service jobs program were approved, as were "countercyclical" grants programs.

Perhaps no issue consumed more of Congress' time in 1975-76 than energy legislation. President Ford believed the December 1975 Energy and Conservation Act set in "place the first elements of a comprehensive national energy policy." Within the next two weeks, work was also completed on a new Energy Research and Development Administration. Federal energy standards, energy conservation and recovery incentives were formalized during the next ten months. Then, in October 1976 Congress overrode the President's veto (and the opposition of the coal industry) to enact the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act, which revised the procedures for leasing and developing Federal coal deposits.

Following seven months of congressional consideration, and another Presidential veto, an extension of the school lunch and other child nutrition programs was enacted on October 7, 1975.

On December 23, 1975, the President signed into law a bill establishing a 17-member U.S. Metric Board to help coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system in the United States. In May 1976, an Office of Science and Technology was established in the Executive Office of the President as a result of legislation approved by Congress.

President Ford signed a new election campaign act on May 11, 1976, after the Supreme Court had ruled the previous January that the method of appointing of commissioners to the Federal Elections Commission violated the Constitution's separation-of-powers clause because some commissioners had been named by congressional officials but exercised executive powers.

Proponents of a more open government were able in September 1976 to gain approval for the "sunshine" law requiring all multi-headed Federal agencies to open their meetings to the public. Culminating 15 years of legislative debate involving a myriad of special interest groups, Congress a month later enacted the first comprehensive revision of the Nation's copyright laws since 1909.

To resolve another subtle form of discrimination in the United States, Congress vastly expanded Federal aid for education of the handicapped. Eleven months later, in October 1976, an extensive overhaul of Federal funding aid to higher and vocational education was approved.

Congress, late in March 1976, also cleared legislation extending the 12-mile exclusive U.S. fishing zone of the Nation's coasts to 200 miles. Three months later, a \$1.2 billion program of Federal aid to States was approved to assist them in dealing with the effects of increased offshore gas and oil development resulting from the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. On October 21, the President signed a statutory mandate for the Bureau of Land Management to administer all of the Federal lands within its jurisdiction. The following day, action was completed on a bill authorizing \$742.3 million for water resource projects beginning in fiscal 1978, and Federal guidelines agreed upon for the practice of clearcutting in National forests.

Other important measures approved by the Ninety-fourth Congress provided the aid necessary to prevent New York City from going bankrupt, a \$25.6 billion extension of the Federal revenue sharing program, a \$2.1 billion appropriation for the initial expenses of ConRail, granted approval to a covenant granting U.S. Commonwealth status to the Northern Mariana Islands in the Pacific, and set national controls on potentially toxic substances.

MAJOR ACTS

Tax Reduction Act of 1975. Provided \$22.8 billion in individual and business tax cuts, along with \$1.9 billion in special countercycle Government spending. Increased the business tax credit, cut back the oil and gas depletion allowance, and curbed foreign oil tax benefits. Approved March 29, 1975. (89 Stat. 26-67)

Cambodian and Vietnamese Refugees Special Assistance Appropriation. Appropriated \$405 million for the remainder of fiscal 1975 and for fiscal 1976 for the resettlement of more than 100,000 refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam. This money was to be used to pay for their transportation, initial care and lodging in the United States, and social services such as vocational and language training, medical care and welfare that they might require later. Approved May 23, 1975. (89 Stat. 89)

Summer Youth Employment and Recreation Funds. Appropriated \$473,350,000 for an estimated 840,000 summer jobs for youth, primarily in Government. Approved June 16, 1975. (89 Stat. 215)

Jobs Programs Added to Continuing Appropriations of 1976. Appropriated as part of a routine continuing appropriations measures was \$1.625 million for public service jobs; \$375 million for emergency public works projects; \$119.8 million for the college work-study program; \$70 million for the Work Incentive program for welfare recipients; \$30 million for an employment program for the elderly; and \$10 million for the Youth Conservation Corps. Approved June 27, 1975. (89 Stat. 225-231)

National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act of 1966 Amendments of 1975. Extended all the non-school food programs, including a supplemental feeding program for mothers and their young children, and made the school breakfast program permanent. Also expanded the school lunch and breakfast programs to include children's residential institutions, increased the income eligibility level of reduced-priced lunches, and made children of unemployed parents eligible for reduced-price lunches. Approved October 7, 1975. (89 Stat. 511-530)

Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975. Required States to provide a free, adequate education to all their handicapped children by September 1, 1978, and provided funds for State programs. Provided additional special incentive grants to States for education of preschool handicapped children aged 3 to 5. Approved November 29, 1975. (89 Stat. 773-796)

New York City Seasonal Financing Act of 1975. Allowed the Secretary of the Treasury to make Federal loans of up to \$2.3 billion a year through mid-1978 to help New York City meet its seasonal cash needs. Required the city to repay the loans and interest of about 8 percent by June 30 of each year. Enactment of the legislation ended, at least temporarily, a harrowing string of money crises for the Nation's largest city. Approved December 9, 1975. (89 Stat. 797-799.)

Energy Policy and Conservation Act. Established a national energy policy designed to maximize domestic production of energy and provide for strategic storage reserves of oil and petroleum products; minimize the impact of disruptions in energy supplies by providing for emergency standby measures; provide for a level of domestic oil prices which would both encourage production and not impede economic recovery; and reduce domestic energy consumption through voluntary and mandatory energy conservation plans. Approved December 22, 1975. (89 Stat. 871-969)

Revenue Adjustment Act of 1975. Continued the tax cuts of the Tax Reduction Act of 1975 for an additional 6 months and pledged that Congress would cut fiscal 1977 outlays dollar for dollar if the tax cuts were extended again. Still, Congress reserved the right to ignore that commitment if it concluded through the budget process that changing economic conditions or other circumstances required higher or lower spending levels. Approved December 23, 1975. (89 Stat. 970-976)

Metric Conversion Act of 1975. Established a national policy of U.S. metric conversion and a 17-member U.S. Metric Conversion Board to assist and coordinate the voluntary conversion to the metric system of weights and measurement in the United States. Approved December 23, 1975. (89 Stat. 1007-1012)

Energy Research and Development Administration Appropriation Authorization. Provided for a \$5 billion appropriation for the new Energy Research and Development Administration for fiscal 1976 and a proportional amount, \$1.27 billion for the transitional quarter. Of this total, \$4 billion was for nuclear programs. Approved December 31, 1975. (89 Stat. 1063-1078)

Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976. Authorized the United States Railway Association to purchase up to \$2.1 billion of ConRail securities. Established a Finance Committee composed of the Secretaries of Transportation and Treasury and the Chairman of the USRA. Provided for a Special Court to adjudicate any supplemental transfer or restructuring of rail properties in the Northeast and Midwest region, and Federal assistance for passenger service in the Northeast corridor and local rail service continuation. Approved February 5, 1976. (90 Stat. 31-150)

Equal Credit Opportunity Act Amendments of 1976. Outlawed credit discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, religion or national origin. Amended the 1974 Equal Credit Opportunity Act which banned discrimination based on sex or marital status. Approved March 23, 1976. (90 Stat. 251-255)

Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. Granted commonwealth status to the Northern Mariana Islands in the Pacific. Agreement provided for self-government of the islands, but reserved to the United States complete control over their foreign affairs and defense. Federal income taxes and other levies paid by the islanders were to be returned to the islanders. Approved March 24, 1976. (90 Stat. 263-279)

Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. Extended the existing 12-mile exclusive U.S. fishing zone off the Nation's coasts to 200 miles. Approved April 13, 1976. (90 Stat. 331-361)

National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976. Established an office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President. Authorized the President to appoint a director of the office and up to four associate directors to advise the President on scientific matters affecting defense and the budget, areas beyond the normal reach of the head of the National Science Foundation. Approved May 11, 1976. (90 Stat. 459-473)

Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1976. Reconstituted the Federal Election Commission as a six-member panel appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Changed the enforcement procedures, modified the Commission's authority to render advisory opinions, amended various contribution limitations, and made changes in the system for providing U.S. Government funding of Presidential campaigns. Gave Congress the power to disapprove individual sections of any regulation proposed by the Commission. Approved May 11, 1976. (90 Stat. 475-502)

Indochina Migration and Refugee Act of 1975, Amendment. Laos Refugees, Inclusion. Amended the Indochina Migration and Refugee Act of 1975 to provide for the inclusion of refugees from Laos. Approved June 21, 1976. (90 Stat. 691)

International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976. Authorized congressional oversight of commercial sales of major U.S. military weapons and equipment abroad and extended the 1974 veto provisions to sales by the Government of major defense equipment costing at least \$7 million. Prohibited private companies from selling any major equipment costing \$25 million or more directly to other governments. Approved June 30, 1976. (90 Stat. 729-769)

Coastal Zone Management Act Amendments of 1976. Amended the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize a \$1.2 billion program of Federal aid to coastal cities, to assist them in dealing with the effects of offshore gas and oil development. Consisted of \$800 million in loan and bond guarantee authority to be used over a 10-year period and \$400 million authorized for direct grants to coastal States, for use over an eight-year period ending in fiscal 1984. Approved July 26, 1976. (90 Stat. 1013-1033)

Federal Coal Leasing Amendment Act of 1975. Amended the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, requiring an additional 12.5 percent of all moneys received from sales, bonuses, royalties, and rentals of public lands under the provisions of the Act and the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury to the State within the boundaries of which the leased lands or deposits are or were located. This money was to be used as each State legislature directs. Also provided that certain funds received from the Department of the Interior oil shale test leases could be used by the States of Utah and Colorado as their legislatures directed, giving priority to those subdivisions socially or economically impacted by the development of minerals leased under the Act. Approved August 4, 1976. (90 Stat. 1083-1093)

Energy Conservation and Production Act. Established energy conservation standards for new buildings, a low-income family weatherization program, a loan guarantee program for commercial and industrial buildings, and a financial incentive experimentation program for existing residential buildings. Approved August 14, 1976. (90 Stat. 1125-1169)

Government in the Sunshine Act. Opened the meetings of collegial or multi-member Government agencies to public scrutiny "where such deliberations determine or result in the joint conduct or disposition of official agency

business." Permissive exemptions within the statute allowed meetings to be closed for certain specific reasons. Provided procedures for court redress to open a meeting were provided and provisions for regulating ex parte communications in any on-the-record agency proceeding. Approved September 13, 1976. (90 Stat. 1241-1248)

B-1 Strategic Bomber Program Authorization. Provided as part of the Department of Defense Appropriation Act of 1977 that the funds appropriated for procurement of the Air Force's B-1 Bomber could not be expended at a rate exceeding \$87 million a month through January 1977. Approved September 22, 1976. (90 Stat. 1288)

Emergency Jobs Program Extension Act of 1976. Extended the emergency public service jobs program under Title VI of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act doubling its size if sufficient funds were available. Approved October 1, 1976. (90 Stat. 1476-1488)

Tax Reform Act of 1976. Changed the laws concerning tax shelter investments, minimum and maximum taxes, extension of individual income tax reductions, alimony deductions, retirement income credits, child care expense credit, sick pay exclusion, moving expenses, business use of homes and vacation homes, foreign tax preferences, trusts, capital formation, estate and gift taxes, capital gains and losses, domestic international sales, tax-exempt organizations, corporate tax rates and surcharge exemptions, certain railroad and airline provisions, and international trade agreements. Repealed and revised obsolete tax provisions from the U.S. Tax Code. Approved October 4, 1976. (90 Stat. 1520-1933.)

Toxic Substances Control Act. Provided for an assessment of the potential toxicity of substances before production and dissemination. Emphasis being placed on the prevention of adverse effects before they occur, rather than correction of hazardous situations after they became manifest. Also included a provision banning the use of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) within two- and one-half years. Approved October 11, 1976. (90 Stat. 2003-2051)

Education Amendments of 1976. Extended and overhauled most federally funded aid to higher and vocational education programs. Made no revolutionary changes in the programs, but did revise the direction of some and consolidated most vocational education categorical grants into a single block grant. Also extended vocational education programs, and the college work-study and cooperative education programs through fiscal 1982. Most of the remaining higher education programs were extended through fiscal 1979. Approved October 12, 1976. (90 Stat. 2081-2241)

Federal Revenue Sharing Amendments of 1976. Provided for a \$25.6 billion extension of the Federal revenue sharing program through fiscal 1980. The three-year, nine-month extension (from January 1, 1977, through September 30, 1980) put the program on the fiscal year basis followed by the Federal Government (October-September). Gave the 96th Congress, due to convene in 1979, responsibility for deciding whether the revenue sharing experiment should continue. Approved October 13, 1976. (90 Stat. 2341-2357)

Copyright Law Revision of 1976. Provided for a general revision of the copyright law, title 17 of the United States Code. Took into consideration such technological innovations as photocopying, radio and television, motion pictures, and phonograph. Raised royalties paid to song-writers by record-makers and extended new protections to periodical and book writers. Imposed copyright liability for the first time upon three industries that were heavy users of copyrighted materials: public broadcasters, cable television systems, and jukebox operators. Brought U.S. laws into conformity with international law, extending the duration of copyright protection to the lifetime of the author plus 50 years. Repealed a long-standing statute denying copyright protection to most foreign-manufactured works. Approved October 19, 1976. (90 Stat. 2541-2602)

Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act. Provided for annual Federal payments to local governments to compensate for tax revenues lost because of tax exempt Federal lands within their boundaries. Approved October 20, 1976. (90 Stat. 2662-2666)

Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Updated and consolidated some 3,000 public land laws into a single statute defining the Bureau of Land Management's authority. Required the Secretary of Interior to develop comprehensive hand-use plans for the BLM lands and to maintain an up-to-date inventory of the lands and their resources. Approved October 21, 1976. (90 Stat. 2743-2794)

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. Authorized a total of \$365.9 million for solid waste programs, mostly in fiscal 1978-79, including \$80 million for general use by the Environmental Protection Agency, \$70 million to finance State solid waste management programs, \$50 million for hazardous waste programs, and \$35 million to help finance demonstration projects or new methods of recycling, extracting resources from or disposing of solid wastes. Established a Federal permit program to regulate hazardous wastes and required States receiving Federal grants to ban all open dumping within five years of enactment. Approved October 21, 1976. (90 Stat. 2795-2841)

Water Resources Development Act of 1976. Authorized the planning and design of 36 water resources projects and construction of 14 others. In addition authorized flood control, navigation and dam projects in 36 States and 2 territories, and modifications in previously authorized projects and new studies, as well as changes in administrative policy. Approved October 22, 1976. (90 Stat. 2917-2948)

National Forest Management Act of 1976. Gave congressional sanction to the practice of clearcutting in national forests under Federal guidelines and revised Federal forest management policy. Authorized a \$200 million annual appropriation for reforestation efforts beginning in fiscal 1978. Approved October 22, 1976. (90 Stat. 2949-2963)

NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS
January 4, 1977-October 15, 1978
(Administration of Jimmy Carter)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Newly elected President Jimmy Carter, in hopes of stimulating a faltering economy, initially proposed an increase in Federal spending combined with a small tax cut. After considerable reshaping, Congress completed action on the Administration's proposals in May 1977 and sent a \$34.2 billion tax cut bill to the President, who signed it into law.

Energy shortages proved to be an equally compelling issue facing the nation during the Ninety-fifth Congress. In August 1977, Carter's request for a new Cabinet-level Department of Energy was approved. Subsequently, five laws comprising the Nation's new energy policy were signed by the President on November 9, 1978. These enactments provided for economic incentives which encouraged energy conservation, established new regulatory procedures for converting industries from oil to coal, encouraged reforms in electrical utility rates, and instituted a variety of conservation assistance programs.

With the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977, Congress set in place the Nation's most complex and far-reaching environmental law. The final compromises which brought about enactment of the Clean Water Act as well as the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, however, left both environmentalists and industry with lingering concerns.

In passing the Housing and Community Development Act of 1977, Congress incorporated most of President Carter's housing and urban aid proposals for low- and moderate-income families.

Indochinese refugees who fled to the United States following the Communist takeover of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia after 1975 were given an opportunity to become American citizens under an October 1977 law.

On November 1, 1977, legislation was signed raising the minimum wage in stages from \$2.30 to \$3.35 an hour over the next three years. Five months later, a law which in effect banned mandatory retirement before seventy and removed the existing mandatory retirement age (70) for most Federal workers became a reality.

Supporters of the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act of 1978 were finally able to gain approval for their bill during the waning hours of the Ninety-fifth Congress only after agreeing to major changes which they previously had considered totally unacceptable. Also in October 1978

Congress produced legislation prohibiting discrimination against pregnant workers and required that pregnant workers be covered by disability and health insurance plans, and provided for a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives from American Samoa.

The new Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 greatly strengthened Federal farm price support programs. A new Federal farm lending program that became law in August 1978 boosted both the size of loans and interest rates for farmers. Two months later, legislation designed to stimulate American agricultural exports while at the same time reducing the U.S. deficit was signed by President Carter.

Strict controls on the export of nuclear materials aimed at stopping the global spread of nuclear weapons were established by a bill signed March 10, 1978, by President Carter. During the next few days, after several months of debate, the Senate approved two treaties which relinquished American control over the Panama Canal. The first turned over the Canal to Panama by the year 2000. The second guaranteed the United States the right to defend the Canal after that date.

Focusing on the Nation's transportation concerns, Congress during October 1978 completed work on legislation that would eventually end most Federal regulation of the commercial airline industry and imposed a user tax on the Nation's inland waterway barge industry. Congress in addition approved President Carter's plan for reorganizing the Government's Civil Service Commission and extended the Older Americans Act, the basic Federal Government effort in behalf of America's 35 million elderly citizens, through fiscal 1981.

A proposed constitutional amendment giving the District of Columbia residents full representation in Congress was passed on August 22, 1978, was sent to the States for ratification. Late in October 1978, legislation requiring detailed public financial disclosure by top officials in all three branches of the Federal Government became law. Within days, Congress also approved legislation making the papers of outgoing Presidents public property.

The first major overhaul of offshore oil and gas leasing laws in 25 years was signed by President Carter September 18. New procedures which allowed the Environmental Protection Agency to simplify registration of pesticides were also approved during September 1978. In an effort to curb oil spills, Congress subsequently approved tougher safety and anti-pollution standards for tankers.

Revision and extension of the massive Elementary and Secondary Education Act was completed on November 1. Three days later, provisions were made for indigent war veterans who had not been disabled as a result of their military service to receive a 50 percent increase in their maximum pension.

During the final hours of the Ninety-fifth Congress, the largest national parks and recreation bill in history which authorized \$1.2 billion for more than 100 projects in 44 States, and a \$18.7 billion tax cut gained final approval.

MAJOR ACTS AND TREATIES

Tax Reduction and Simplification Act of 1977. Set the standard deduction at \$2,200 for single persons and at \$3,200 for joint returns effective with the 1977 tax year. Adjusted the tax tables and rates to reflect the change. Extended the 1975 corporate tax cuts through 1978. Provided a tax cut to employers in 1977 and 1978 of \$2,100 (50 percent of the first \$4,200 of wages) for each new worker. Approved May 23, 1977. (91 Stat. 126-168)

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Established an Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement within the Interior Department to develop and maintain an Information and Data Center on Surface Mining, Reclamation and Surface Impact of Underground Mining to provide information to the public and other Government agencies. Set performance standards for environmental protection to be met at all major surface mining operations for coal. Protected certain lands regarded as unsuitable for surface mining. Established a self-supporting Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to restore lands ravaged by uncontrolled mining operations in the past. Authorized funds for each State to establish, or continue to support, a State mining and mineral resources institute at a public or private college that would conduct research and train mineral scientists and engineers. Approved August 3, 1977. (91 Stat. 445-532)

Department of Energy Organization Act. Established a Cabinet level Department of Energy and transferred all the functions of the Federal Energy Administration, the Energy Research and Development Administration, and the Federal Power Commission to the new Department. Approved August 4, 1977. (91 Stat. 565-613)

Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977. Extended existing allowable levels for the three major automobile exhaust pollutants through the 1979 models, but began tightening them in 1980. Also extended the deadline for cities to meet national clean air standards from 1977 until 1982, and in some cases until 1987. Gave most industrial polluters up to three additional years to comply before facing heavy fines. Set new standards to protect clean-air areas, including national parks. Directed the Environmental Protection Agency to review the criteria for ambient air quality standards before 1981 and subsequent reviews every five years thereafter. Also established a National Commission on Air Quality, and required more than a dozen studies concerning air pollution. Approved August 7, 1977. (91 Stat. 685-796)

Food and Agriculture Act of 1977. Provided for a four-year extension of the 1973 farm bill which expired September 30, 1977. Raised target prices and loan levels for wheat, corn, and other commodities. Extended the food stamp and Food for Peace programs and increased the Government's commitment to agriculture and research. Approved September 29, 1977. (91 Stat. 913-1045)

Housing and Community Development Act of 1977. Extended the Community Development Block Grant Program for three years and authorized \$12.45 billion to fund it. Approved October 12, 1977. (91 Stat. 1111-1150)

Indochinese Refugees. Permanent Residence Status, Adjustment and Refugee Assistance, Extension. Provided an opportunity for Indochinese refugees who had fled to the United States after the Communist takeover of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and resided here for two years to apply for permanent resident alien status, the prelude to naturalized citizenship. Also extended the Federal resettlement aid program begun in 1975. Approved October 28, 1977. (91 Stat. 1223-1225)

Fair Labor Standards Amendments of 1977. Raised the Federal minimum wage rate from \$2.30 an hour to \$2.65 on January 1, 1978, to \$2.90 on January 1, 1979, to \$3.10 on January 1, 1980, and finally to \$3.35 on January 1, 1981. Approved November 1, 1977. (91 Stat. 1245-1253)

Clean Water Act of 1977. Authorized an appropriation of \$4.5 billion in fiscal 1978 and \$5 billion annually for fiscal 1979 through 1982 for the Nation's sewage treatment construction program. Approved December 27, 1977. (91 Stat. 1566-1611)

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978. Provided for a more efficient and effective control over the proliferation of nuclear capability. Directed the President to begin negotiations with other countries to establish an international nuclear fuel source, thus reducing the incentive for countries to build certain kinds of fuel processing plants that would increase the risk of nuclear proliferation. Empowered the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to make independent judgments of the proliferation risks involved in licensing nuclear exports. Approved March 10, 1978. (92 Stat. 120-152)

Panama Canal Treaty. Granted to the United States rights to regulate the shipping and to manage, operate, maintain, improve, protect, and defend the Panama Canal until December 31, 1999, when Panama assumed total control and responsibility of Canal operation and property. Provided that Panama's participation in the management, protection, and defense of the Canal would continue to increase during this period. Established a Panama Canal Commission to operate and manage the waterway and employ a U.S. citizen as its administrator until January 1, 1990, when a Panamanian would assume that position. Prohibited the construction in Panama of any new Canal except as the two countries might agree and prohibited the United States from negotiating with other nations for construction of a new route in Latin America except as the two countries might agree. Provided that Panama would receive an annual payment of \$10 million from Canal revenues and an additional amount of up to an additional \$10 million if revenues exceed expenditures. Concluded September 7, 1977. Ratified by the Senate March 16, 1978. (International Legal Materials. v. 16. July 1977. p. 1022-1039.)

Age Discrimination in Employment Act Amendments of 1978. Raised the permissible mandatory retirement age for most non-Federal workers from 65 to 70. Eliminated age ceilings for most Federal employees. Approved April 6, 1978. (92 Stat. 189-193)

Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal. Declared that the Panama Canal would remain permanently neutral and secure and open to peaceful transit by vessels from all nations on terms of equality in times of peace and war. Provides that after the termination of the Panama Canal Treaty in 1999, only Panama would operate the Canal and maintain military forces, defense sites, and military installations within its national territory. Also provided that U.S. and Panamanian war vessels and auxiliary ships be "entitled to transit the canal expeditiously." Concluded September 7, 1977. Ratified by the Senate April 18, 1978. (International Legal Materials. v. 16. July 1977. p. 1040-1098.)

Agricultural Credit Act of 1978. Amended the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide new emergency loans of up to \$400,000 to farmers and ranchers in economic stress conditions for as long as 30 years. Raised the limit for individual farm ownership loans from \$100,000 to \$200,000, for direct and insured loans, and to \$300,000 for guaranteed loans. Raised the limit for individual farm operating loans from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and to \$200,000 for guaranteed loans. Approved August 4, 1978. (92 Stat. 420-434)

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Providing for Representation of the District of Columbia in Congress. If ratified this amendment would provide for the District of Columbia to be treated as a State for the purposes of congressional and electoral college representation and ratification of proposed amendments to the Constitution. Would repeal the 23rd amendment to the Constitution which allows District residents to vote for President and Vice President, while limiting District representation in the electoral college to that of the least populous State. Proposed August 22, 1978. (92 Stat. 3795-3796)

Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978. Amended the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to establish a policy of increased development of oil and gas resources on the Outer Continental Shelf while ameliorating the impact of such development. Revised procedures for bidding, leasing and exploration of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands. Required consultation by the Secretary of Interior with affected coastal States and regional advisory boards established pursuant to this Act and authorized \$130 million per year for a Coastal Energy Impact Program to aid the States. Approved September 18, 1978. (92 Stat. 629-698)

Federal Pesticide Act of 1978. Authorized new procedures which allowed the Environmental Protection Agency to simplify registration of pesticides. Gave the public access to information about the effect of a pesticide on human health and environment. Authorized the States to enforce controls on pesticides once State governments met standards designed to maintain minimum, nationwide controls on the substances. Approved September 30, 1978. (92 Stat. 819-842)

Civil Service Reform Act of 1978. Reorganized the Civil Service Commission creating a Senior Executive Service for top Federal employees, a merit pay system for middle-level management, increased management flexibility in firing incompetent employees, and statutory labor rights for Federal workers. Approved October 13, 1978. (92 Stat. 1111-1227)

Port and Tanker Safety Act of 1978. Authorized the Secretary of Transportation to require each vessel operating in U.S. waters to have a federally licensed pilot. Barred vessels carrying oil or other hazardous material from operating in U.S. waters or transferring cargo in any U.S. port if the vessel had a history of accidents, failed to comply with U.S. law and regulations, did not meet U.S. manning requirements, or did not have at least one licensed deck officer who could clearly understand English. Expanded Federal authority to investigate accidents at sea. Required new crude oil tankers of 20,000 deadweight tons (dwt) or more to install a cargo tank protection system, segregated ballast tanks, and a crude oil washing system. Approved October 17, 1978. (92 Stat. 1471-1493)

Comprehensive Older Americans Act Amendments of 1978. Revised and extended through fiscal 1981. Consolidated the administrative structure of the programs for the aging, substantially increased authorizations for various social services, health and nutrition programs, and continued the effort to provide improved legal protections for older Americans. Approved October 18, 1978. (92 Stat. 1513-1559)

Agricultural Trade Act of 1978. Authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to establish from 6 to 25 U.S. Agricultural Trade Offices abroad with the sole responsibility of expanding the export of U.S. commodities, and to establish a new restricted immediate-term credit program to facilitate increased exports of U.S. agricultural commodities. Approved October 21, 1978. (92 Stat. 1685-1692)

Inland Waterways Revenue Act of 1978. Levied for the first time a user charge on freight traffic (other than noncommercial pleasure craft) along the 25,000 miles of the navigable inland waterway system of the United States. This fee, levied in the form of a tax on diesel fuel, was to begin on October 21, 1980. Approved October 21, 1978. (92 Stat. 1696-1702)

Airline Deregulation Act of 1978. Amended the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 to encourage, develop, and attain an air transportation system that relied on competitive market forces. Instructed the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to stress compliance in its regulations, and ordered it to expedite and simplify its procedures. Facilitated the offering of new services and routes by the airlines, and granted them flexibility in raising and lowering their fares. Provided that any certified intrastate carrier could automatically enter one new route a year until 1981 without seeking approval of the Civil Aeronautics Board, and each carrier could designate one of its routes per year as ineligible for automatic entry. Made airline employees eligible for compensation if they lost their jobs, had their wages cut, or were forced to relocate because of the increased competition brought on by enactment of the this legislation. Approved October 24, 1978. (92 Stat. 1705-1754)

Ethics in Government Act of 1978. Codified the public financial disclosure provisions of the new ethic codes adopted by the House and the Senate in 1977. Applied the same disclosure requirements to the President, Vice President, Supreme Court justices and the top-level employees of both the executive and judicial branches. Approved October 26, 1978. (92 Stat. 1824-1885)

Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978. Declared a national policy of promoting full employment, increased real income, balanced growth, a balanced budget, growth in productivity, an improved balance of trade, and price stability. Provided for coordination of economic policy-making to promote the goals of reducing inflation and unemployment. Also provided for better coordination and faster integration of the policymaking framework involving the Administration, Congress, and the Federal Reserve in the Congressional budget process. Approved October 27, 1978. (92 Stat. 1887-1908)

Pregnancy, Sex Discrimination Prohibition Act of 1978. Prohibited employment discrimination on the basis of pregnancy and required disability and health insurance plans to cover pregnant workers. Approved October 31, 1978. (92 Stat. 2076-2077)

Nonvoting Delegate to the House of Representative from American Samoa. Provided for the election of a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives from American Samoa. Approved October 31, 1978. (92 Stat. 2078-2079.)

Education Amendments of 1978. Extended and revised the Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs of Federal assistance to public schools for five years, through fiscal 1983. Revised the formula allocating funds to States by fully counting all welfare children as poor, even if their families had incomes above the poverty level. Approved November 1, 1978. (92 Stat. 2143-2380)

Veterans' and Survivors' Pension Improvement Act. Provided a fifty percent increase in the maximum pension paid indigent war veterans who were not disabled as a result of military service. Guaranteed veterans a minimum annual income. Established a new program of improved pension benefits payable monthly to needy surviving spouses of wartime veterans. Approved November 4, 1978. (92 Stat. 2497-2511)

Presidential Records Act of 1978. Provided that beginning with the 1981 Presidential term most Presidential records would become public property at the end of the President's term in office. Presidents could retain personal records, including diaries and journals, materials relating to private political matters, and materials connected with their election or the election of any other official. In addition, Presidents also retained the right to restrict access to certain materials for up to 12 years if the document related to national defense or foreign policy, trade secrets, confidential advice between the President and his advisers, personnel files, or files relating to Presidential appointments. Approved November 4, 1978. (92 Stat. 2523-2528)

Revenue Act of 1978. Provided for \$18.7 billion in tax cuts, including generous capital gains reductions for some 4.3 million taxpayers. Also gave people over fifty-five a once-only complete capital gains tax exclusion for up to \$100,000 in profits from the sales of personal residences. Approved November 6, 1978. (92 Stat. 2763-2946)

Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978. Required that State utility commissions and other regulatory agencies consider the use of energy-saving methods, such as pricing electricity lower in off-peak hours to avoid heavy loads in the middle of the day and discontinuing discounts for large volume users. Approved November 9, 1978. (92 Stat. 3117-3173)

Energy Tax Act of 1978. Provided tax credits of 15 percent of the first \$2,000 (maximum \$300) spent by homeowners to install insulation and other specific energy-conserving improvements at their principal residence. Homeowners investing in solar, wind or geothermal energy equipment were eligible for a tax credit of up to 30 percent on the first \$2,000 and 20 percent on the next \$8,000, for a total maximum credit of \$2,200. Made a 10 percent investment credit available to businesses installing specific types of energy conservation equipment, and tax incentives for companies producing synthetic fuels from coal or other resources. Also provided that cars using fuel inefficiently were to be taxed to discourage their manufacture and purchase. Approved November 9, 1978. (92 Stat. 3174-3205)

National Energy Conservation Policy Act. Required that utilities give customers information about energy conservation devices such as insulation and storm windows. Although the utilities could not sell the devices or install them, they could arrange for the installation and allow customers to pay for the improvements through utility bills. Provided \$900 million over the ensuing three years for schools and hospitals to install energy-saving equipment, grants and government-backed loans for low-income families for home conservation investments. Authorized mandatory efficiency standards for 13 major home appliances, including refrigerators, furnaces and water heaters. Approved November 9, 1978. (92 Stat. 3206-3288)

Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978. Required that new industrial and utility plants be built to use coal or a fuel other than oil or gas, and existing utility plants using oil or gas switch to other fuels by 1990. Authorized the Secretary of Energy to order some industries, on a case-by-case basis, to switch fuels, and also to exempt utilities and companies from the requirements if certain conditions, such as inadequate supply of coal, existed. Approved November 9, 1978. (92 Stat. 3289-3349)

National Gas Policy Act of 1978. Allowed the price of newly discovered natural gas to rise about 10 percent a year until 1985, when the price controls would be lifted. Established special pricing categories for industrial users to pay the brunt of the higher prices until the cost reached a certain level, when residential users were to assume more of the burden. Prohibited the installation of new decorative outdoor gas lights, and required that existing lights were to be shut off in three years. Approved November 9, 1978. (92 Stat. 3350-3411)

National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. Authorized \$1.2 billion for more than 100 parks and preservation projects in 44 States. A major provision of Act was a \$150 million annual urban parks program during 1979-82 for grants to rehabilitate recreational facilities, including basketball and tennis courts. Approved November 10, 1978. (92 Stat. 3467-3550)

NINETY-SIXTH CONGRESS
January 15, 1979-December 16, 1980
(Administration of Jimmy Carter)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

President Jimmy Carter's surprised many with his announcement late in 1978 that the United States would establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China as of January 1, 1979. Breaking diplomatic relations with the Nationalist Chinese administration on Taiwan presented Congress with several legal, economic, and strategic concerns regarding future relations between the two countries. Late in March 1979, Congress completed work on legislation placing U.S. relations with Taiwan on an unofficial basis and provided security assurances to this end.

In June legislation was approved authorizing \$4.8 billion in special aid to Israel and Egypt for fiscal 1979 to help in the implementation of the Camp David accords. With the signing of legislation implementing the Panama Canal Treaties on September 27, 1979, the 96th Congress concluded its most emotional foreign policy debate. On March 31, 1980, Congress authorized \$75 million in emergency economic aid for Nicaragua.

At the same time, during Jimmy Carter's final two years as President, Congress also faced several growing domestic concerns requiring it to devote much of its time reevaluating the Federal Government's role in the energy industry and attempting to resolve the Nation's growing fiscal woes.

Cutbacks in Iranian oil early in 1979 focused congressional attention on how ill-prepared the Nation was to deal with fuel shortages. Finally, in November Congress approved legislation authorizing the President to draft a standby rationing plan subject to congressional review. To disapprove the plan both Houses had to vote against it. If their rejection were vetoed by the President, it could be overridden only by a two-thirds majority in each House.

Congress and the President also agreed to a five-year \$19 billion synfuels program to stimulate domestic commercial production of alternative fuels. Late in 1979, additional legislation was enacted which provided for a multi-billion dollar package to aid in the development of synthetic fuels to be administered by a Synthetic Fuels Corporation. During 1980, two bills aimed at giving a boost to commercial use of ocean thermal energy were enacted, and a law was approved which encouraged the development of windmills to supply electric power.

On July 26, 1979, President Carter signed a new trade bill which he felt would create jobs, spur exports, and enhance the prospects of peace. That December, he approved legislation providing for a new countercyclical formula to determine how much unprocessed beef and veal could be imported each year.

A milestone in Federal education legislation was reached during the first session of the 96th Congress with the establishment of the Department of Education in October 1979. As part of this process the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare was redesignated the Department of Health and Human Services.

One of the first pieces of legislation to be approved in 1980 authorized Federal help for the financially ailing Chrysler Corporation, the Nation's tenth largest corporation and the third largest auto maker. That March, in what Treasury Secretary G. William Miller characterized as the "most important legislation dealing with banking and finance in nearly half a century," Congress restructured the Nation's financial industry. The largest tax ever on an American industry became law three months later with enactment of the Crude Oil Windfall Profits Tax, which was expected to provide the Federal Government with revenues of about \$227 billion over the next ten years.

Late in April 1980, Congress completed work on an international sugar pact designed to stabilize world sugar prices. A month later, emergency action for the second year in a row was taken to prevent the food stamp program from running out of money.

By the end of June, congressional approval had been secured for a law aimed at getting welfare children out of foster homes and back with their families or into adoptive homes. Other important acts of June 1980 reduced Social Security and welfare expenditures by an anticipated \$2.6 billion for fiscal 1981-85, provided Federal funds for technical assistance and loans for removing asbestos hazards in the Nation's schools, and opened the way for U.S. mining companies to explore the ocean floor for mineral resources.

In September, legislation specifically designed to strengthen the USDA's role as the lead agency in coordinating a government-wide rural development strategy was enacted. Near the end of the month, approval was given to President Carter's proposal to end direct payments to farmers for crop damage caused by drought and other natural causes and to subsidize instead a greatly expanded Federal crop insurance program.

Work was completed at the same time on legislation to tighten funding requirements and reduce government liability for multiemployer pension plans covering 8 million workers. Passage of the Mental Health Systems Act of October 1980 restructured and expanded Federal mental health services. By this time President Carter had already signed a law establishing a new psychological counseling program for Vietnam veterans.

Overturning a 1978 Supreme Court decision that allowed surprise police searches of news organizations, President Carter signed the Privacy Protection Act into law October 13, 1980, which placed stringent limits on such searches. Also that fall, Congress revised its oversight responsibilities of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other U.S. intelligence-gathering operations. Efforts to reduce the burden of federally imposed paperwork received a boost late in the year with the passage in December of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

Focusing on science and technology, Congress during the final few months of 1980 approved the National Aquaculture Act, a five-year \$285 million program aimed at improving the Nation's industrial technology, and an overall national materials policy. It also revised existing U.S. patent policy relating to federally funded inventions and approved simplification procedures for handling certain patent disputes.

In addition, the second session of the 96th Congress approved legislation virtually tripling the number of refugees who could enter the country. Four other important measures included: two major transportation deregulation acts designed to streamline the Government's regulation of the trucking and railroad industries, a law restricting future development of more than 100 million acres of Federal lands in Alaska, and a \$1.6 million "superfund" established to clean up toxic contaminants spilled or dumped into the environment.

As one of its last acts, the 96th Congress, for the first time in the six-year history of the congressional budget process, approved "reconciliation" legislation designed to trim the fiscal 1981 budget by more than \$8.2 billion.

MAJOR ACTS

Taiwan Relations Act. Declared that it was the policy of the United States "to preserve and promote extensive, close and friendly commercial, cultural and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan." Specified that the United States would conduct its relations through a private corporation, the American Institute in Taiwan. Pledged continued arm sales to the Taiwan government and provided that the United States would take actions--which were not specified--in the event of an attack on Taiwan. Assured that all trade, transportation, and cultural links between the two countries remain in effect. Approved April 10, 1979. (93 Stat. 14-21)

Veterans' Health Care Amendments of 1979. Established two new programs: a program of professional counseling for Vietnam veterans, and a program of preventive health care for veterans with service-connected disabilities. Also provided for expanded treatment and rehabilitation programs for veterans suffering from alcohol or drug dependence or abuse disabilities. Approved June 13, 1979. (93 Stat. 47-67)

Trade Agreements Act of 1979. Established a new, detailed, and substantially faster procedure for resolving complaints considered under U.S. countervailing duty law, which was designed to protect domestic industry against foreign Government subsidies on imported goods. Provided for speedy investigations and imposition of penalties under both the countervailing duty law and anti-dumping statutes, which barred imports at prices below home market prices. Also established a new system of customs valuation that would use the price actually paid for merchandise when sold for exportation to the United States as the primary method of assessing customs value. Approved July 26, 1979. (93 Stat. 144-317)

Panama Canal Act of 1979. Established the Panama Canal Commission to operate and maintain the Panama Canal through 1999, when Panama would assume complete control of the waterway. Required that funds collected by the Commission, including the canal tolls, were to be deposited in the U.S. Treasury, and all expenditures by the Commission had to be authorized and appropriated by Congress. Created a special civil service system for canal employees, procedures for setting tolls on the canal, transfer of public property, and regulation of shipping and navigation, laws, courts, and cemeteries. Approved September 27, 1979. (93 Stat. 452-500)

Department of Education Organization Act. Consolidated 152 education-related programs in a new Cabinet-level Department of Education. Prohibited the Department from increasing Federal control over education. Stressed the need for the Department to strengthen the commitment to equal educational opportunity; to assist public and private groups in improving education; to encourage increased involvement in education; to promote improvements in the quality and usefulness of education through federally supported research; and to improve the coordination, efficiency, and accountability of Federal programs. Approved October 17, 1979. (93 Stat. 668-696)

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Redesignated the Department of Health and Human Services. Provided that all references to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in any law, rule, regulation, certificate, directive, instruction, or other official paper in force be deemed to refer and apply to the Department of Health and Human Services, except to the extent such functions were transferred to the Department of Education. Approved October 17, 1979. (93 Stat. 695)

International Security Assistance Act of 1979. Authorized the President to provide Israel with \$2.2 billion in military credits to upgrade the Israeli Defense Forces and \$800 million in military grants for Israel. Provided Egypt with \$1.5 billion in military credits, \$200 million in economic grants, and \$100 million in economic credits. Approved July 20, 1979. (93 Stat. 89-93)

Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979. Required that the President draft a standby rationing plan and within 120 days submit it to Congress for review. Gave Congress 30 legislative days to review the plan after which it would be considered approved unless a joint resolution of disapproval were adopted. It could be approved sooner if a resolution of approval were passed. If the two Houses passed opposing resolutions, the plan would be considered approved. If a joint resolution of disapproval were adopted, it still could be vetoed by the President. A two-thirds majority of both Houses would be necessary to override the veto. Approved November 5, 1979. (93 Stat. 749-770)

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1980 (Appropriations for Synthetic Fuel Programs). Created a special fund to be designated the Energy Security Reserve and appropriated \$19 billion "to expedite the domestic development and production of alternative fuels to reduce dependence on foreign supplies of energy resources." Defined alternative fuels as "gaseous, liquid, or solid fuels and chemical feedstocks derived from solid wastes, coal, shale, tar sands, lignite, peat, biomass, unconventional natural gas, and other materials or organic materials other than crude oil or any derivative thereof." Approved November 27, 1979. (96 Stat. 954-980)

Meat Import Act of 1979. Provided for a countercyclical formula for meat imports, permitting them to increase when domestic supplies were low and prices relatively high and to decrease when domestic supplies were plentiful and prices relatively lower. Approved December 31, 1979. (93 Stat. 1291-1294)

Chrysler Corporation Loan Guarantee Act of 1979. Established a loan guarantee board consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Comptroller General and the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, plus two ex-officio members--the Secretaries of Labor and Transportation--to administer \$1.5 billion in loan guarantees to the Chrysler Corporation. Provided that the company had to come up with a matching \$2 billion in assistance from such parties as workers, dealers, and creditors. Approved January 7, 1980. (93 Stat. 1324-1337)

Refugee Act of 1980. Established new procedures for admitting refugees and for resettling them once they arrived in the United States. Created the Office of U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs, to be appointed by the President with the Senate's consent. Authorized reimbursement to States for aid to those persons who sought asylum in the United States before November 1, 1979, but who had neither been granted asylum nor been deported. Approved March 17, 1980. (94 Stat. 102-118)

Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act of 1980. Contained as separate titles the Monetary Control Act of 1980, the Depository Institutions Deregulation Act of 1980, and the Consumer Checking Account Equity Act of 1980, as well as provisions relating to the powers of thrift institutions, state usury laws, truth in lending simplification, and foreign control of U.S. financial institutions. Restructured the Nation's financial industry removing most Federal regulatory distinctions between commercial banks, and savings and loan associations. Extended the Federal Reserve's power over the bank deposits that make up a large part of the Nation's money supply. Approved March 31, 1980. (94 Stat. 132-193)

Crude Oil Windfall Profits Tax Act of 1980. Levied a tax on "windfall profits" American oil companies would enjoy as a result of President Carter's April 1979 decision to end gradually oil price controls. Taxed the windfall at a rate of between 30 to 70 percent on the windfall depending on the type of oil, the date the well was first tapped, the method of production, and the producer. Provided that 25 percent of the tax revenues derived would be used for low-income fuel assistance, 60 percent for income tax reductions, and 15 percent for energy and transportation programs. Authorized tax incentives to businesses and homeowners for conserving or producing energy. Approved April 2, 1980. (94 Stat. 229-308)

International Sugar Agreement 1977, Implementation. Authorized the United States to become a fully participating member of the International Sugar Agreement which was designed to stabilize world sugar prices between 11 and 21 cents per pound by establishing a system of export quotas and stockpiles among the fifty sugar exporting and importing member nations. Approved April 22, 1980. (96 Stat. 336-337) Complemented the pact itself, which the Senate approved November 30, 1979. (Treaties and Other International Acts Series, 9664)

Food Stamp Act Amendments of 1980. Raised the spending ceilings for the food stamp program to \$9.5 billion in fiscal 1980 and \$9.7 billion in fiscal 1981 (existing ceilings being \$6.19 billion and \$6.24 billion, respectively). Provided new guidelines covering eligibility and the relationship between the role of States and the Federal Government in administering the program. Approved May 26, 1980. (94 Stat. 357-370)

Special Central American Assistance Act of 1980. Authorized \$80 million under the Economic Support Fund for the Central American countries of Nicaragua (\$75 million) and Honduras (\$5 million). Required that the President, before providing aid to Nicaragua, to certify that the government had not cooperated with or harbored any international terrorist organization or aided terrorism in other countries. Approved May 31, 1980. (94 Stat. 422-424)

Social Security Disability Amendments of 1980. Decreased the benefits to workers who in the future became eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, and disability payments under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program for the poor. Established a new program of voluntary Federal certification of "Medigap" insurance policies sold by private insurance companies to supplement health insurance coverage provided by Medicare. Approved June 9, 1980. (94 Stat. 441-481)

Asbestos School Hazard Detection and Control Act of 1980. Established a program for the inspection of schools to detect the presence of hazardous asbestos materials. Authorized \$22.5 million in grants to help schools find potentially dangerous asbestos, and \$150 million in twenty-year, interest-free loans to help them cover it up or replace such materials with other suitable building materials. Approved June 14, 1980. (94 Stat. 487-498)

Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980. Established an adoption assistance program for children with "special needs" who were eligible for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, AFDC foster care program, or Social Security Insurance. Limited for the first time Federal support for foster care costs. Approved June 17, 1980. (94 Stat. 500-535)

Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act. Open the way for U.S. mining companies to explore the ocean floor for minerals while an international seabed treaty was being negotiated. Prohibited commercial development of the seabed prior to January 1, 1988, so that American mining companies could follow any rules which might be set down when the United Nations completed action on a Law of the Sea Treaty. If no international agreement were reached by 1988, this Act would govern ocean mining activities by U.S. companies. Approved June 28, 1980. (94 Stat. 553-586)

Energy Security Act. Established a Synthetic Fuels Corporation (SFC), which could provide loan guarantees, purchase guarantees, and guaranteed prices to develop synfuels. In addition, under specified conditions, the SFC could participate in joint ventures and was authorized to own and contract for the construction and operation of synthetic fuel projects. Authorized \$20 billion for SFC. Approved June 30, 1980. (94 Stat. 611-779)

Motor Carrier Act of 1980. Sharply curtailed regulation of the trucking industry by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Made it easier to obtain new operating authority; limited the operations of rate bureaus; allowed owner-operators to carry regulated commodities under certain conditions; assigned responsibility for loading and unloading exempt commodities to reduce the opportunity for abuses; and eliminated some restrictions on operating authority such as continuous route limitations and gateway restrictions. Approved July 1, 1980. (94 Stat. 793-826)

Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Research Development, and Demonstration Act. Provided for an accelerated research and development program by the Department of Energy to achieve early application of ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) systems. Directed the Department of Energy to encourage construction of pilot plants, with a goal of having demonstration plants in operation by 1986 capable of generating at least 100 megawatts from ocean thermal energy. Authorized \$75 million in fiscal year 1981 to carry out this purpose. Approved July 17, 1980. (94 Stat. 941-946)

Ocean Thermal Energy Conservation Act of 1980. Established the legal framework to govern the operation of ocean thermal energy conversion plants on the high seas. Provided that licenses and permits would be handled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Approved August 3, 1980. (94 Stat. 974-1000)

Wind Energy Systems Act of 1980. Called for the contribution of wind energy conversion systems of 800 megawatts of electrical power by the end of fiscal year 1988. Authorized the spending of \$100 million in fiscal 1981 to accelerate the development of wind energy systems. Established an extensive program of research, development, testing, and cost-sharing demonstrations to help achieve this goal and make the industry self-sustaining by that time. Approved September 8, 1980. (94 Stat. 1139-1147)

Rural Development Policy Act of 1980. Established a process of consultation and development among Federal, State, local, and private agencies on economic, health and other problems of rural areas. Required the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare a comprehensive rural development strategy, and to submit this document and annual updates to the Senate and House Agriculture Committees on January 31 of each year. Also increased from \$10 million to \$15 million the annual authorization for Farmers Home Administration rural development grants. Approved September 24, 1980. (94 Stat. 1171-1176)

National Aquaculture Act of 1980. Provided for the development of aquaculture in the United States and established an information service for such activities. Directed that a study be made of the capital requirements for aquaculture development and a plan be formulated based on these findings. Required that a study be made of the regulatory constraints on the aquaculture industry and a plan be formulated for action based on these findings. Authorized a total of \$70 million for fiscal years 1981-83 to be divided among the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior; and directed that the three departments prepare a National Aquaculture Development Plan. Approved September 26, 1980. (94 Stat. 1198-1206)

Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980. Amended the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, to improve retirement income security under private multiemployer pension plans by strengthening the funding requirements for those plans, authorized plan preservation measures for financially troubled multiemployer pension plans, and revised the manner in which the pension plan termination insurance provisions apply to multiemployer plans. Approved September 26, 1980. (94 Stat. 1208-1311)

Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980. Abolished direct payments to farmers for crop damage caused by drought or other disasters in favor of a new subsidized, expanded Federal insurance program. Dropped restrictions that had limited the crop insurance to about half of the Nation's counties and to only 26 of the Nation's approximately 400 crops. Allowed farmers preferring private coverage for hail and fire damage to receive discounts on their Federal policies, reflecting the cost of private coverage. Approved September 26, 1980. (94 Stat. 1312-1321)

Mental Health Services Act. Extended the existing Community Mental Health Center Services Act, but starting in 1982 it would target the bulk of Federal aid to the elderly, severely disturbed children and adolescents, and the chronically mentally ill. Established a new Mental Health Systems program with grants to community health centers to assist in meeting their costs of operation. Increased the role of State mental health authorities in designating which projects would receive Federal funds. Also provided for assistance in counseling and followup counseling for rape victims and the immediate family of rape victims. Approved October 7, 1980. (94 Stat. 1564-1613)

Privacy Protection Act of 1980. Barred Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers from using warrants to search newsrooms and other organizations engaged in First Amendment activities, except in specific circumstances. Required the Attorney General to issue guidelines for Federal officers concerning searches for materials held by third parties neither suspected of a crime nor working in the First Amendment area. Approved October 13, 1980. (94 Stat. 1879-1883)

Staggers Rail Act of 1980. Established a national policy aimed at minimizing regulation of the Nation's railroads and to the extent possible, allow competition and the demand for services to establish railroad rates. Allowed the Interstate Commerce Commission to determine rate reasonableness in those instances when any railroad dominated a market and its rates exceeded certain percentages of variable, or out-of-pocket, transportation costs. Removed most of railroad carriers' immunity from antitrust laws to collectively set rates. Approved October 14, 1980. (94 Stat. 1895-1966) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in Railway Labor Executives' Assn. v. Gibbons, 50 LW 4258 (March 2, 1982).

Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1981. Provided the fiscal 1981 appropriations (the amounts of which were classified) for the intelligence activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and other Government intelligence agencies. Authorized \$11.4 million for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's counter-terrorism operations in the United States, \$17.8 million for staff support for the Director of CIA, and \$55.3 million for the CIA Retirement and Disability Fund. Reduced the number of congressional committees entitled to receive notification of covert activities from eight to two--the House and Senate Intelligence Committees. Required the President to "report in a timely fashion to the Intelligence Committees any illegal intelligence activity or significant intelligence failure and any corrective action that has been taken or planned." Approved October 14, 1980. (94 Stat. 1975-1982)

Foreign Service Act of 1980. Reorganized and consolidated the various components of the Foreign Service of the United States to create more uniform statutory terms and conditions of Foreign Service employment. Simplified the personnel categories in the Foreign Service, emphasized and reaffirmed the Foreign Service requirement of worldwide service availability, and established a new Senior Foreign Service. Lifted the mandatory retirement age from 60 to 65 years. Approved October 17, 1980. (94 Stat. 2071-2170)

National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980. Required that the President devise a suitable mechanism for dealing with materials-related problems at the Executive Office/Cabinet level. Called for various initiatives on the part of the Secretaries of Commerce, Defense, the Interior, and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to consider ways of solving a variety of materials-related problems. Approved October 21, 1980. (94 Stat. 2305-2310)

Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980. Authorized a \$285 million appropriation over the next five years for programs to improve the Nation's industrial technology. Created a new, independent agency--the National Technology Foundation--to "promote the advance of technology, technological innovation, and the supply of technological manpower for the improvement of the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the United States." Approved October 21, 1980. (94 Stat. 2311-2320)

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Established a total of more than 100 million acres into conservation units that imposed varying degrees of restrictions on the exploration of oil, materials, and timber. Set aside 43.6 million acres of new national parks, monuments, and park reserves; 53.7 million acres of new wildlife refuges; and 56.4 million acres of wilderness protection in new and existing conservation units. Permitted seismic exploration for oil and gas, but no drilling, on 900,000 acres of the coastal plain in the William O. Douglas Arctic Wildlife Range. Also finalized the conveyance of lands to the State mandated by the Alaska statehood act, and completed transfer of some 44 million acres of land due to Alaskan natives under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Approved December 2, 1980. (94 Stat. 2371-2551)

Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1980. Provided for spending reductions totaling \$4.6 billion for fiscal 1980 beginning October 1, 1980, and revenue-raising provisions expected to yield \$3.6 billion during the year. Spending reductions included programs involving health, education and labor; the post office and civil service; highways, railroads, and airports; veterans; small businesses, unemployment compensation, and social security and public assistance. Revenue increases were to be derived from mortgage subsidy bonds, cash management, capital gains on foreign real estate investments, payroll taxes paid by employers, telephone excise taxes, and alcohol import duties. Approved December 5, 1980. (94 Stat. 2599-2695)

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980. Established a \$1.6 billion emergency "superfund," financed over five years by fees on industrial chemicals and feedstocks (87.5 percent) and appropriations (12.5 percent), to clean up toxic contaminants spilled or dumped into the environment. Gave the President broad authority to use the fund for cleanup and for unspecified long-term remedial actions. No funds were to be available for compensating victims of pollution, but funds were provided for epidemiological studies, chromosomal screening, and a registry of persons exposed to hazardous substances to allow health studies and diagnostic services. These programs were to be carried out by a new "Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry" located in the Public Health Service. Made those responsible for hazardous wastes pollution and spills liable for the entire cleanup costs, with a limit of \$50 million on each incident of damage of natural resources owned by the Federal Government. Approved December 11, 1980. (94 Stat. 2767-2811)

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. Amended title 44 of the U.S. Code to reduce paperwork and enhance the economy and efficiency of the Federal Government and the private sector. Established within the Office of Management and Budget an Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs with the responsibility for overall direction of Federal information policy, statistical activity, records management, automatic data processing, and clearance of new paperwork requirements. Required that the Director of OMB review the paperwork requirements of existing laws and to recommend legislation to reduce paperwork. Approved December 11, 1980. (94 Stat. 2812-2826)

Patent and Trademark Laws, Amendments. Revised existing patent and trademark laws relating to federally funded inventions and simplified procedures for handling certain patent disputes. Allowed small businesses, universities, and non-profit organizations to retain titles to patents resulting from federally funded research. Authorized the Patent and Trademark Office to reexamine patents that were challenged on either of two grounds: that a similar patent existed or that the patent was based on technical material that had already been published. Approved December 12, 1980. (94 Stat. 3015-3029)

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