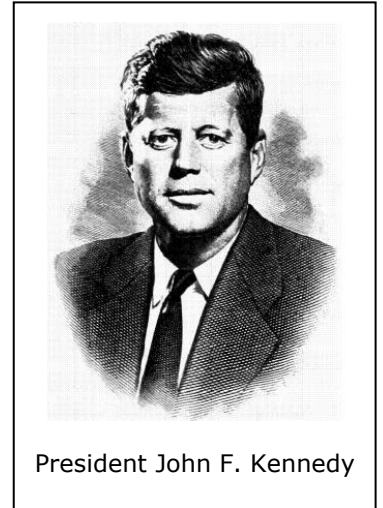


# Eighty-Seventh Congress

Jan. 3, 1961-Oct. 13, 1962

## First Administration of John F. Kennedy

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### Historical Background

On January 20, 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35<sup>th</sup>, 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, 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.

House	Senate
Majority Party: Democrat (263 seats)	Majority Party: Democrat (64 seats)
Minority Party: Republican (174 seats)	Minority Party: Republican (36 seats)
Other Parties 0	Other Parties 0
Speaker of the House: Sam Rayburn (died Nov. 16, 1961); John W.	Majority Leader: Mike Mansfield

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 most important foreign economic policy initiative "since the passage of the Marshall Plan."

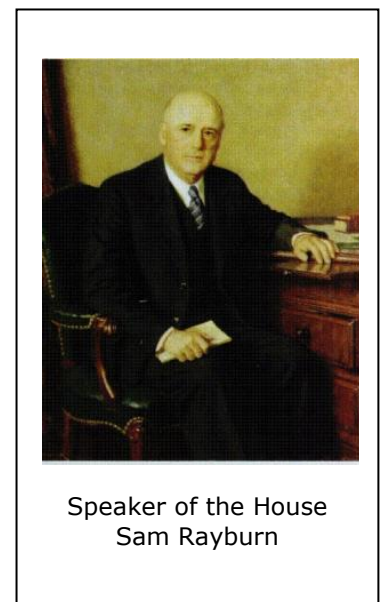
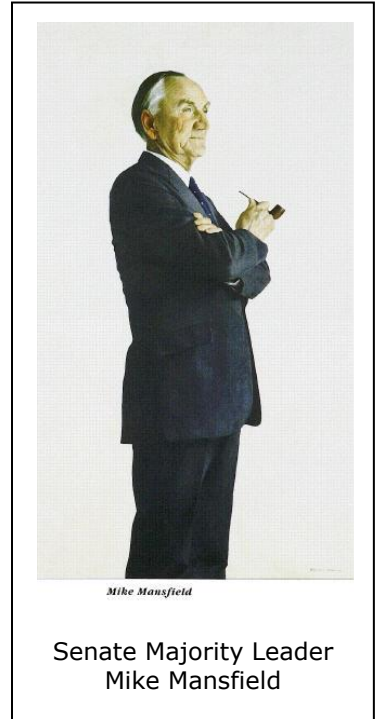
Shifting its emphasis to the Nation's domestic needs, Congress drafted four laws, during Kennedy's first two years in office, to cover special vocational programs which would be coordinated by the same State vocational agencies already having responsibility for existing Federal-State programs. The Area 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 multimillion 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 87<sup>th</sup> 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.

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [\*Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980\*](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005



## War or Peace?

### U.S. Involvement in Vietnam Escalates

In January 1961 Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev pledged Soviet support to "wars of liberation." The Kennedy Administration justified growing U.S. involvement in Vietnam as necessary to halt the worldwide spread of communism. Under the "domino principle," the prevention of the spread of communism in Vietnam, Laos, and every other country in Southeast Asia was vital to U.S. security. In Laos, the pro-U.S. faction lost ground to the pro-

Soviet faction and on May 2, 1961 a cease-fire was declared, with the U.S. agreeing to support a coalition government led by Souvanna Phouma.

In South Vietnam, there was growing dissatisfaction with the government of Ngo Dinh Diem. During 1961 the Viet Cong sharply increased guerrilla, subversive, and political warfare, and continued to control major portions of the population in the countryside. In the first half of 1961, terrorist and guerrilla assassinated over 500 local officials and civilians, kidnapped more than 1,000 and killed almost 1,500 South Vietnamese armed forces. The gains of the Viet Cong insurgency were not yet perceived as serious enough to threaten the immediate collapse of the Diem government, but the U.S. officials began to feel that eventually the Diem government would collapse.

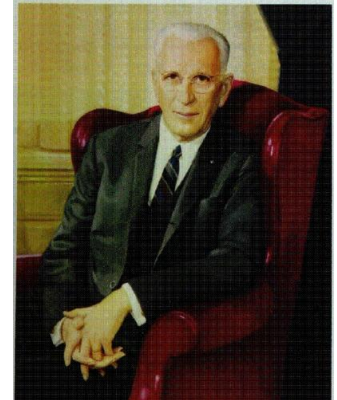
On December 11, 1961 two U.S. helicopter companies arrived in Vietnam, providing direct U.S. military support to South Vietnam for the first time. In 1962 the government of South Vietnam, with U.S. assistance, launched the strategic hamlet, with the intention of fortifying a network of rural villages to oust the Viet Cong and prevent re-infiltration.

### **Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile Crisis**

In April 1961 anti-Castro Cuban exiles launched an attack against Cuba with the assistance of the CIA. On April 15, 1961, eight U.S.-made planes, piloted by Cuban rebels, bombed three Cuban airbases. Two days later, a force of 1,400 anti-Castro Cuban exiles landed at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba. In less than three days the invasion was crushed and all survivors were captured. On April 24, President Kennedy issued a statement accepting full responsibility for the invasion. Kennedy later accepted the resignations of CIA director Allen Dulles and his chief deputy Richard M. Bissell, Jr., who had directed the operation.

Sometime in mid-1962 Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev decided to install intermediate-range nuclear missiles, launching equipment and Il28-bombers in Cuba, only 90 miles from the U.S. The plan would have nearly doubled Soviet nuclear striking capability against targets in the U.S., although the U.S. would still have maintained at least a 2-1 superiority in nuclear power targeted against the Soviet Union. In July and August military shipments and specialists poured into Cuba. On October 3 Under Secretary of State George W. Ball publicly disclosed the full extent of the Soviet military build-up in Cuba known at that time.

On October 15, U.S. intelligence analysts conformed that the Soviets were building a medium-range missile base in Cuba. On October 22, President Kennedy addressed the nation, stating that the Soviet Union was preparing a series of offensive missile sites in Cuba with the purpose of providing nuclear strike capability against the U.S. and other Western hemisphere countries. The President announced that he directed a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba. On October 23, Khrushchev stated that captains of Soviet vessels bound for Cuba would be instructed not to obey the orders of U.S. naval vessels. On October 24 a convoy of Soviet ships approached within 500 miles of the quarantine line.



Speaker of the House  
John W. McCormack



Sam Rayburn Addresses the  
House Following His  
Swearing-In as Speaker of  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the  
87<sup>th</sup> Congress

The ships halted at that point and some began to turn around. Direct negotiations between Kennedy and Khrushchev continued. Two days later Khrushchev proposed that the Soviets withdraw weapons from Cuba on the condition that the U.S. withdraw the blockade and agree not to invade Cuba. The next day a single Soviet ship resumed its passage towards Cuba and President Kennedy accepted Khrushchev's proposal. Nonetheless, the U.S. expected that a military confrontation would occur. On Oct. 28 Khrushchev conceded and the crisis came to an end.

Sources:

[Special Studies Series on Foreign Affairs Issues. Vol. I. Soviet Diplomacy and Negotiating Behavior: Emerging New Context for U.S. Diplomacy](#), Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senate, July 11, 1979, 96<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. (Y4.F76/1:Sp3/v.1 ). ProQuest Congressional, CMP-1979-FOA-0039

[United States - Vietnam Relations, 1945-1967](#), Committee on Armed Services. House, Jan. 1, 1971, 92<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. (Y4.Ar5/2:V67/3/945-67/bk.1-12). ProQuest Congressional, CMP-1971-ASH-0003

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## Economic Trends and Conditions

1961 opened in the midst of a recession, with hopes that economic recovery would ensue. Nearly 7% of the labor force was unemployed and almost one-fifth of manufacturing capacity lay idle. A persistent deficit in international payments had weakened confidence in the dollar. Government response in 1961 and 1962 included measures intended to improve the structure and functioning of the economy, including new programs to redevelop chronically depressed areas, retrain the unemployed, increase social security benefits for the aged and the unemployed, boost business capital spending, and raise wages of underpaid workers.

By the end of the 1961 industrial production showed a total rise of 13%. The unemployment rate stood at 6.1% and confidence in the dollar had been restored. During 1962 the unemployment rate continued to drop and stood at 5.6% by the end of the year. Prices remained stable and the balance of payments improved.

Sources:

Kennedy, John F. [Economic Report of the President, January 1962](#), House, Jan. 20, 1962, 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session. H.doc. 278 (Pr35.9:962). ProQuest Congressional, 12497 H.doc.278

Johnson, Lyndon B. [Economic Report of the President Transmitted to the Congress, January 1963](#), House, Jan. 21, 1963, 88<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. H.doc. 28 (Pr36.9:963). ProQuest Congressional, 12600 H.doc.28

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## Constitutional Amendments

**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

Aug. 27, 1962. Ratified by the requisite number of States Jan. 23, 1964. ([76 Stat. 1259](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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## Major 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 Dec. 14, 1960. Approved by the Senate Mar. 16, 1961. ([12 UST. 1728-1759](#))\*

\* UST refers to the State Department's multivolume series which began in 1950 entitled: *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements*.

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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## Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

*Burton v. Wilmington Parking Authority*, holding that the exclusion of African American patrons from a parking garage was discriminatory and violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, 365 U.S. 715 (1961)

*Konigsberg v. State Bar of California*, holding that the denial of a suspected Communist Party participant's application for admission to the California Bar was not a violation of his Fourteenth Amendment rights, in that the suspected party refused to answer questions from the California Committee of Bar Examiners on his qualifications, 366 U.S. 36 (1961)

*Braunfeld v. Brown*, holding that Pennsylvania Blue Law is not in violation of religious rights, in that the restrictions on businesses had a secular basis and did not keep residents from practicing their chosen beliefs, though in this particular case, it placed economic burden on a Jewish business owner who wished to open their establishment on Sundays, 366 U.S. 599 (1961)

*Mapp v. Ohio*, holding that evidence obtained on violation of Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures may not be introduced in criminal proceedings in State courts, 367 U.S. 643 (1961)

*Baker v. Carr*, holding that the Federal courts have jurisdiction over complaints against malapportioned legislatures, 369 U.S. 186 (1962)

*Engel v. Vitale*, holding unconstitutional New York State Board of Regents requirement that public-school students recite a specified non-denominational prayer at the start of the school day, 370 U.S. 421 (1962)

Source:

Costello. George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [\*Constitution of the United States of America, Analysis and Interpretation\*](#). Senate, Jan. 1, 1996. 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, S. Doc. 103-6. ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

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## 1961 Events

- **Jan. 3:** [U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower severs diplomatic relations with Cuba](#)
- **Jan. 3:** [First fatal nuclear power reactor accident occurs in the U.S. at the SL-1 reactor at the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho](#)
- **Jan. 17:** [Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba of the Congo is assassinated, having been previously identified by the CIA as a possible target for assassination](#)
- **Jan. 17:** [During his final State of the Union address, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower warns of the burgeoning influence of the “military-industrial complex”](#)
- **Jan. 31:** [Space Race - Mercury-Redstone-2 flight successfully tests human life support system on chimpanzee Ham](#)
- **Feb. 1:** [The United States conducts the first test of its Minuteman I intercontinental ballistic missile \(ICBM\)](#)
- **Mar. 1:** [U.S. President John F. Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps](#)
- **Apr. 11:** [The trial of Nazi Adolf Eichmann for war crimes begins in Jerusalem](#)
- **Apr. 17:** [Bay of Pigs - CIA-supported Bay of Pigs invasion launched against Cuba, intended to overthrow Fidel Castro](#)
- **Apr. 20:** [Bay of Pigs – Invading force defeated after Castro’s troops pin the invaders on the beach; 114 are killed and over 1,100 are taken prisoner](#)
- **May 4:** [Freedom Riders - The Freedom Riders civil rights activists begin their interstate bus rides to investigate compliance with the Supreme Court order to integrate public schools](#)
- **May 5:** [Space Race - Astronaut Alan B. Shepard flies Mercury-Redstone-3 mission in the first American manned sub-orbital flight](#)
- **May 25:** [Space Race - President Kennedy predicts the US will land a man on the moon and return him safely to Earth before the decade is out](#)
- **May 30:** [Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo assassinated, with possible involvement of CIA](#)
- **June 2-4:** [Berlin Crisis – Vienna Summit - President Kennedy meets with Premier Khrushchev of the Soviet Union to discuss nuclear](#)

[testing, disarmament, the status of Berlin, and the neutrality of Laos; tensions rise over Berlin](#)

- **July 27:** *Berlin Crisis* – President Kennedy gives a televised speech asserting the resolve of the U.S. not to abandon West Berlin to Communist forces and explaining the need for a military build-up
- **Aug. 13:** *Berlin Crisis* – [Soviet Union closes the border between West and East Berlin and begins construction of the Berlin Wall to separate East Berlin from West Berlin](#)
- **Sept. 18:** [United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld is killed when the plane in which he was a passenger crashed en route to Katanga, Congo](#)
- **Sept. 28:** A military coup in Damascus formally ends the United Arab Republic experiment, reverting Egypt and Syria to their status as independent states
- **Oct. 11:** *Freedom Riders* - Civil rights activists Paul Potter and Tom Hayden are dragged from their car and beaten as they participate in a civil rights march in McComb, Mississippi as part of the Freedom Rider movement
- **Oct. 17:** Police in Paris open fire on a crowd of 30,000 protesting a curfew applicable only to Algerians - official death toll is three, though human rights activists claim as many as 240 were killed
- **Oct. 30:** [The Soviet Union detonates Tsar Bomba, a hydrogen bomb with an estimated yield of 58 megatons, the most powerful human-made nuclear explosive](#)
- **Dec. 11:** *Vietnam War* - U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam officially begins as helicopters carrying U.S. military personnel arrive in Saigon
- **Dec. 11:** [Architect of the Final Solution Adolf Eichmann is found guilty of crimes against humanity at his war crimes trial in Jerusalem and sentenced to death](#)

## 1962 Events

- **Feb. 3:** [President Kennedy proclaims and embargo upon U.S. trade between U.S. and Cuba](#)
- **Feb. 20:** [John Glenn makes the first orbital flight](#)
- **May 5:** Twelve East Germans defect and escape to West Berlin via a tunnel under the Berlin Wall
- **May 27:** [The Centralia mine fire is ignited when an illicit trash fire in an abandoned strip mine near the town of Centralia, Pennsylvania sets a coal seam alight. The fire has burned continuously to the present day and it is estimated that it could burn an additional 250 years at the current rate](#)
- **May 31:** Adolf Eichmann is hanged in Ramla, Israel for his role in planning and executing the Nazi's Final Solution
- **June:** Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* begins serialization in the *New Yorker*
- **July 5:** Algeria becomes independent from France

- **Aug. 5:** [Marilyn Monroe is found dead of an overdose of tranquilizers in Los Angeles](#)
- **Sept. 2:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* - [The U.S.S.R. agrees to send arms to Cuba](#)
- **Oct. 15:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* - [U.S. spy planes capture photographs of Soviet nuclear weapons being installed in Cuba, sparking a standoff between the world's two nuclear superpowers](#)
- **Oct. 18:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* – President Kennedy meets with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and advises him that America will not tolerate Soviet missiles in Cuba
- **Oct. 20:** The Department of Justice petitions the Federal District Court of Western Pennsylvania for an injunction under the Taft Hartley Act to order striking steelworkers back to work
- **Oct. 22:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* – President Kennedy addresses American public and announces plan to implement a naval blockade of Cuba
- **Oct. 23:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* – Reconnaissance photos reveal that Soviet missiles are ready for launch
- **Oct. 24:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* – Soviet ships reach the quarantine line, but receive radio orders from Moscow to hold their positions
- **Oct. 25:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* – American military moves to DEFCON 2, the highest in U.S. history; the USSR proposes the removal of Soviet weapons from Cuba if America public agrees to not invade Cuba
- **Oct. 26:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* – President Kennedy meets secretly with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin
- **Oct. 27:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* – An American spy plane is shot down over Cuba
- **Oct. 28:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* - [Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev announces that he has ordered the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba in exchange for a U.S. promise to not invade Cuba bringing the crisis to an end](#)
- **Nov. 21:** *Cuban Missile Crisis* – President Kennedy ends the naval blockade and quarantine after Khrushchev agrees to withdraw Soviet nuclear bombers from Cuba
- **Dec. 14:** *Space Race* - [U.S. space probe Mariner 2 flies by Venus](#)
- **Dec. 25:** Last known Soviet atmospheric nuclear test

Sources:

[8<sup>th</sup> semiannual report of National Aeronautics and Space Administration, July 1-Dec. 31, 1962.](#)  
Committee on Science and Astronautics. House, Dec. 5, 1963. 88<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H.doc.179. ProQuest Congressional, 12589 H.doc.179

["To Alan Shepard, Jr., Successful Astronaut, May 5, 1961."](#) Congressional Record, 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. (May 11, 1961) Vol. 107, pp. A3338-A3339. ProQuest Congressional. CR-1961-0511

[Alleged Assassination Plots Involving Foreign Leaders.](#) Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities. Senate. Nov. 20, 1975, 94<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. S. Rpt. 94-465. ProQuest Congressional. 13098-8 S.rp.465



["The Berlin Wall in Perspective."](#) Congressional Record, 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session. (Aug. 13, 1962) Vol. 108, pp. 16281-16288. ProQuest Congressional. CR-1962-0820

Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate. [Executive Sessions of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee \(Historical Series\) Eighty-Seventh Congress, First Session, 1961, Vol. XIII, Part 2.](#) Senate. June 7-8, 12-16, 19, 22, 27, July 6, 28, Sept. 20, Dec. 20, 1961, 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. 85-S381-15 (Y4.F76/2:Ex3/2/v.13/pt.2) ProQuest Congressional. HRG-1961-FOR-0002

Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate; Committee on Armed Services. Senate. [Executive Sessions of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee \[...\] 1962, Vol. XIV.](#) GPO, Jan. 11-12, 15, 18, Feb. 8, 20, 27, Mar. 6, 9, 14, 29, Apr. 3, 10-11, 13, 16, May 15, June 6, 22, 26, July 3, 13, Sept. 5, 11, 17, 1962. 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 86-S381-11. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1962-FOR-0001

["CONGRATULATING KAZAKHSTAN ON 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSURE OF WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST NUCLEAR SITE."](#) Congressional Record, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session (July 18, 2006) Vol. 152, p. H5332. ProQuest Congressional. 152 Cong Rec H 5332

["The Eichmann Verdict."](#) Congressional Record, 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session (Jan. 17, 1962) Vol. 108, pp. 361-362. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1962-0117

["Embargo on all Trade with Cuba."](#) (76 Stat. 1446; Feb. 3, 1962). ProQuest Congressional

Johnston, Felton M. [Orbital flight of John H. Glenn, Jr.](#) Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences. Senate, Mar. 15, 1962. 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, S.doc.79. ProQuest Congressional, 12444 S.doc.79

Kennedy, John F. [Death of Dag Hammarskjold.](#) Sept. 19, 1961. 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, Presidential Proclamation No. 3430. ProQuest Congressional. 75 Stat. 1100

Kennedy, John F. [Urgent national needs. Address of the President of the United States delivered before a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives relative to urgent national needs.](#) Committee of the Whole House. House. May 25, 1961, 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. H.doc.174. ProQuest Congressional. 12363 H.doc.174

["Regulation of Manufacture and Distribution of Habit-Forming Barbiturates and Amphetamine Drugs."](#) Congressional Record, 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session (Aug. 23, 1962) Vol. 108, pp. 17346-17348. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1962-0823

["Soviet Activities in Cuba."](#) Congressional Record, 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session (Sept. 4, 1962) Vol. 108, pp. 18438-18439. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1962-0904

Subcommittee to Investigate Administration of Internal Security Act and Other Internal Security Laws. Committee on Judiciary. Senate. [Soviet Political Agreements and Results. Supplement No. 1. Staff Study.](#) GPO, Jan. 1, 1963, 88<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. S0615 (Y4.J89/2:So8/6/supp.1) ProQuest Congressional. CMP-1963-SJS-0008

U.S. House. 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session. ["97 H. Res. 452 Referred to Committee House."](#) (May 5, 1982). ProQuest Congressional

["Violence in Alabama."](#) Congressional Record, 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, (May 16, 1961) Vol. 107, pp. 8027-8028. ProQuest Congressional. CR-1961-0516

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## Major Acts

**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; PL87-27](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**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; PL87-30](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**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; PL87-61](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Social Security Amendments of 1961.** Increased both Social Security benefits and Social Security taxes. Approved June 30, 1961. ([75 Stat. 131; PL87-64](#))

**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; PL87-70](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.** 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 exchanges. Approved Sept. 21, 1961. ([75 Stat. 527; PL87-256](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Peace Corps Act.** 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 Sept. 22, 1961. ([75 Stat. 612; PL87-293](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**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 Sept. 26, 1981. ([75 Stat. 631; PL87-297](#))

**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 Mar. 15, 1962. ([76 Stat. 23; PL87-415](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**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 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; PL87-543](#))

**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 Aug. 1, 1962. ([76 Stat. 255; PL87-565](#))

**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 Sept. 14, 1962. ([76 Stat. 541; PL87-658](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**United Nations Loan Authorization Act.** 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 Oct. 2, 1962. ([76 Stat. 695; PL87-731](#))

**Drug Amendments of 1962.** Amended the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to sharply strengthen Federal safety controls on drugs, authorized the standardization of drug names, and clarified and strengthened existing inspection authority. Approved Oct. 10, 1962. ([76 Stat. 780; PL87-781](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**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 Oct. 11, 1962. ([76 Stat. 872; PL87-794](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**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 Oct. 23, 1962. ([76 Stat. 1145; PL87-866](#))

**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 Aug. 31, 1962. ([76 Stat. 419; PL87-624](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Source:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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