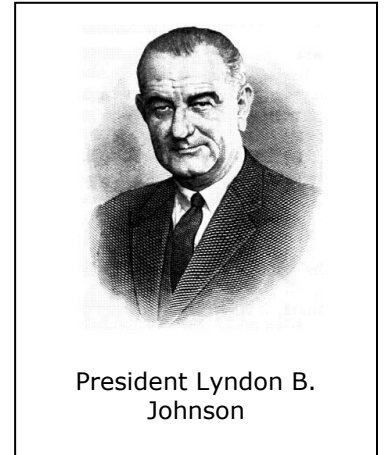


Eighty-Ninth Congress

Jan. 4, 1965-Oct. 22, 1966

Second Administration of Lyndon B. Johnson

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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 included a nationwide program of grants for the initial staffing of community medical centers, scholarships for needy medical and dental students, and expansion of the Federal effort to control the illicit distribution and use of psychotropic 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

House	Senate
Majority Party: Democrat (295 seats)	Majority Party: Democrat (68 seats)
Minority Party: Republican (140 seats)	Minority Party: Republican (32 seats)
Other Parties 0	Other Parties 0
Speaker of the House: John W. McCormack	Majority Leader: Mike Mansfield

"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 89th 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.

Source:

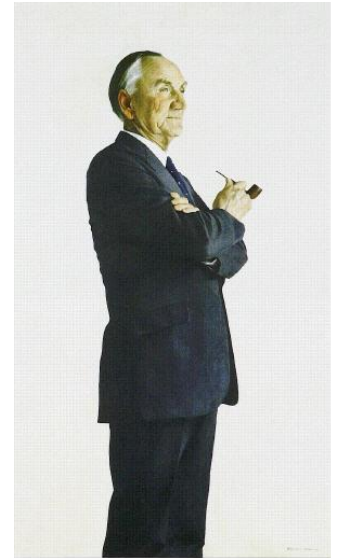
Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [*Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980*](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

War or Peace?

Vietnam War

The United States ground war in Vietnam officially began on March 8, 1965, with the unilateral deployment of 3,500 U.S. Marines to South Vietnam. The number of U.S. ground troops in South Vietnam would balloon over the course of the year, reaching 200,000 by December. The U.S. Commander in South Vietnam, General William Westmoreland argued for a reversal of the U.S. forces' official defensive posture in the country, reasoning that given the initiative, the United States military would have no trouble destroying the Việt Cộng rebellion. Westmoreland delineated a three-part strategy for achieving a total victory in South Vietnam: 1) Commitment of U.S. forces sufficient to stop the Việt Cộng's momentum, 2) U.S. and allied forces launch major offensive actions against established guerilla positions to seize the initiative and drive the enemy from populated areas, and 3) In the event the enemy does not surrender, a continuation of major operations for a period of 12-18 months to bring about the final and total destruction of the enemy.

In order to spread the cost of the war as well as to give its prosecution the imprimatur of a multinational coalition, the United States encouraged its allies to commit troops to the cause. While some Asia-Pacific allies agreed to send troops, e.g. Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, and the Philippines, several NATO allies, including Canada and the United Kingdom, declined to do so. Troop buildups continued throughout 1965 and 1966 in preparation for the war to enter its major phase beginning in 1967.



Mike Mansfield

Senate Majority Leader
Mike Mansfield



John W. McCormack,
Massachusetts: Speaker, second session,
Eighty-seventh Congress through
Ninety-first Congress, from January 10,
1962 to January 2, 1971.

Speaker of the House
John W. McCormack

Space Race

In October 1964, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev was deposed by a group of Communist Party officials led by Leonid Brezhnev. One of the earliest actions of the new Soviet regime was to cancel the problem-plagued Voskhod space program in order to focus on the race to the moon. One unintended beneficiary of this interruption in the Soviet space program was NASA's Gemini program—the second U.S. manned space program.

Beginning with Gemini 3, launched March 23, 1965, a total of ten manned Gemini missions were launched during 1965-1966, putting the United States back on top in the Space Race. Among these missions were many firsts in space exploration. Gemini V, launched August 21, 1965, included the first use of fuel cells for electrical power and was the first week-long space flight. Gemini VII extended the duration of human space flight to 14 days and the craft was involved in the first space rendezvous with Gemini VI-A, launched December 15, 1965.

Source:

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

Economic Trends and Conditions

In January 1965 the unemployment rate had fallen to 4.8 percent and GNP, personal income, and corporate profits were all rising. During 1965 prices increased by 1.8 percent averaged over the year, but began to edge up more rapidly. 1966 saw an appreciable rise in prices in certain sectors, including food, services, and interest rates. At the beginning of 1966, unemployment had dropped below the interim target of 4 percent. Actions of the Federal Reserve during 1966 severely restricted bank credit and the money supply. Interest rates were high, although they declined somewhat during the fall of 1966. At the end of the Congress the economy continued to expand, but with a slowdown in the rate of advance, and the Federal budget deficit was expected to grow.

The Great Society

President Lyndon B. Johnson conceived a comprehensive package of social program to rival the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt for its expansive vision of the U.S. welfare state. Dubbed the Great Society, the program included several initiatives aimed at ensuring the nation's most vulnerable citizens, including the aged and the poor, had access to education and medical care.

The key accomplishments of the Great Society during the 89th Congress were the creation of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, both authorized under the Social Security Amendments of 1965. The Medicare program was designed to make money available for older Americans' medical expenses.



Historic Medicare Bill. The signing into law of one of his priority legislative bills is a happy moment for the President. On July 30, 1965, he signs the Medicare Bill which President Truman first recommended to Congress 20 years earlier. L. to R., President Johnson, Mrs. Johnson, Rep. Mills, Vice President Humphrey, former President Truman at Independence, Mo.

And under the Medicaid program, Americans receiving welfare benefits were eligible for benefits to cover medical expenses.

Another key Great Society initiative approved during the 89th Congress was the Older Americans Act of 1965, enacted July 14, 1965. The Act established the National Aging Network, which was a collaboration between the Federal Administration on Aging and various state and local agencies dedicated to providing services to older Americans and continues to be in effect to the present day.

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Constitutional Amendments

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 Feb. 10, 1967. ([79 Stat. 1327](#))

Source:

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Stanford v. Texas, confirming that Fourth Amendment search and seizure laws apply to State governments and holding that search warrants should be accorded the most scrupulous exactitude when books are seized and the basis for their seizure is the ideas they contain, 379 U.S. 476 (1965)

Cox v. Louisiana, holding that the “disturbing the peace” statute in Louisiana was unconstitutional in that it was vague and overly broad, giving the law enforcement officers in the state complete control over determining what fell under this statute, 379 U.S. 536 (1965)

U.S. v. Seeger, holding that an individual can be a conscientious objector based on a religious belief in a “Supreme Being”, 380 U.S. 163 (1965)

Griswold v. Connecticut, striking down a Connecticut statute that barred the use of contraceptives by married couples as violation of the constitutional right of marital privacy, 381 U.S. 479, (1965)

Albertson v. Subversive Activities Control Board, holding that the claim of a Communist organization against the Subversive Activities Control Act, which required the registration of members of Communist action-organizations, was valid, in that the members were forced to self-incriminate in violation of the Fifth Amendment, 382 U.S. 70 (1965)

South Carolina v. Katzenbach, upholding the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as constitutional, as it prevented states from testing their citizens in order to deny their right to vote, 383 U.S. 301 (1966)

Ginzburg v. U.S., holding that circulars advertising obscene or pornographic materials are in violation of the federal obscenity statute and therefore are not protected under the First Amendment, 383 U.S. 463 (1966)

Kent v. U.S., questioning the underlying assertion that procedural safeguard requirements in juvenile courts undermine the ability of the courts to help juveniles and upholding the right of juveniles to certain specific procedural safeguards, 383 U.S. 541 (1966),

Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections, holding unconstitutional State imposition of a poll tax in State elections, 383 U.S. 663 (1966)

Elfbrandt v. Russell, holding that the forcing of public employees to take an oath in support of state and federal Constitutions and against the Communist Party is unconstitutional, 384 U.S. 11 (1966)

Sheppard v. Maxwell, ruling that Sam Sheppard, who had been convicted of second-degree murder in the death of his wife, had not received a fair trial

due to the judge's failure to sufficiently protect him from prejudicial pre-trial publicity, 384 U.S. 333 (1966)

Miranda v. Arizona, holding that defendant statements made in response to police interrogation will be admissible in court only if the prosecution can show that the defendant was informed of his right to consult with an attorney before and during questioning, 384 U.S. 436 (1966)

Katzenbach v. Morgan, holding that Congress is within its powers to enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965 over the New York state election laws, which allowed for Puerto Rican voters who were unable to read and write English to exercise their right to vote, 384 U.S. 641 (1966)

Source:

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

1965 Events

- **Jan. 4:** [President Johnson proclaims his ideas for building a "Great Society" during his State of the Union Address](#)
- **Jan. 19:** *Space Race* - [Unmanned U.S. Gemini 2 spacecraft suborbital flight confirms suitability of spacecraft for manned flight](#)
- **Jan. 30:** [Winston Churchill's state funeral at St. Paul's Cathedral is the largest state funeral to date](#)
- **Feb. 8:** *Vietnam War* - Combat troops are deployed to South Vietnam, including Marines sent to protect US airbase near Da Nang
- **Feb. 15:** Canada adopts a new national flag with a maple leaf design
- **Feb. 18:** The Gambia declares independence from the United Kingdom
- **Feb. 20:** *Space Race* - [U.S. Ranger VIII crashes on the moon after successfully transmitting back over 7000 photographs of possible landing sites on the lunar surface](#)
- **Feb. 21:** [Civil Rights activist Malcolm X assassinated in New York](#)
- **Mar. 2:** *Vietnam War* - U.S. begins "Rolling Thunder" sustained bombing operation against North Vietnam lasting for three years
- **Mar. 2:** "The Sound of Music" is released in the U.S.
- **Mar. 7:** *Selma to Montgomery Marches - Bloody Sunday* - [Civil rights demonstrators set out to march from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery, but are forcibly stopped by Alabama State Troopers](#)
- **Mar. 8:** *Vietnam War* - First U.S. Marines arrive in South Vietnam on Da Nang beaches
- **Mar. 9:** *Selma to Montgomery Marches* - [Martin Luther King, Jr. leads second attempt to march in Selma](#)
- **Mar. 15:** [President Johnson addresses Congress to ask for voting rights legislation](#)
- **Mar. 18:** *Space Race* - [Soviet Cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov is first man to walk in space](#)

- **Mar. 21:** *Selma to Montgomery Marches* - [Martin Luther King, Jr. leads third march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery](#)
- **Mar. 21:** *Space Race* - [Ranger 9, the last of the unmanned lunar spacecraft in the Ranger Series, is launched](#)
- **Mar. 22:** *Space Race* - [U.S. Gemini III, the first two-person manned spaceflight, is launched](#)
- **Mar. 23:** *Vietnam War* - [US troops confirm using chemical warfare against the Vietcong](#)
- **Mar. 25:** *Selma to Montgomery Marches* - [March from Selma to Montgomery completed. Civil rights activist and homemaker Viola Liuzzo is shot and killed as she drives marchers back to Selma](#)
- **Apr. 3:** *Space Race* - U.S. Snapshot 1 launch tests operability of first remotely controlled nuclear power source in space
- **Apr. 11:** [An outbreak of tornadoes occurs in the Midwest, highlighting the inadequacy of the public warning system](#)
- **Apr. 28:** [U.S. Marines land in Dominican Republic with the stated purpose of protecting U.S. citizens following a coup](#)
- **May 1:** Battle of Dong-Yin: naval conflict occurs between China and Taiwan
- **May 3:** Cambodia breaks diplomatic relations with the US
- **June 3-7:** *Space Race* - [U.S. Gemini IV: longest U.S. manned space flight to date and first U.S. spacewalk occurs](#)
- **June 10-13:** *Vietnam War* - [Battle of Dong Xoai: Viet Cong overwhelm military headquarters of South Vietnam](#)
- **July 26:** Republic of Maldives gain independence from United Kingdom
- **July 14:** *Space Race* - [U.S. Mariner IV spacecraft flies by Mars and transmits first photographs of the planet](#)
- **July 27:** [President Johnson signs bill requiring printed health warning on all cigarette packaging](#)
- **July 28:** *Vietnam War* - President Johnson doubles men drafted monthly to Vietnam War
- **July 30:** Medicare and Medicaid are established by the Social Security Act of 1965
- **Aug. 5:** *Indo-Pakistani War* - Pakistan-trained guerillas cross into Kashmir leading to the outbreak of war between Indian and Pakistan
- **Aug. 6:** [Voting Rights Act signed into law prohibiting minority discrimination requirements such as literacy tests](#)
- **Aug. 9:** [Singapore declares independence from Malaysia](#)
- **Aug. 11-16:** [Widespread rioting begins in the Watts area of Los Angeles, Calif. in response to mounting racial tension; the riots result in massive property damage, 34 deaths, and escalated racial tension throughout the country](#)
- **Aug. 15:** The Beatles perform at Shea Stadium
- **Aug. 19:** Auschwitz Trials conclude in Frankfurt, of the thousands of surviving SS personnel, approximately 750 received sentences
- **Sept. 6:** *Indo-Pakistani War* - officially begins when India invades West Pakistan

- **Sept. 8-13:** [Hurricane Betsy causes more than \\$1 billion in damage to Florida, Louisiana, and the Gulf Coast](#)
- **Sept. 23:** *Indo-Pakistani War* - India-Pakistan war cease-fire
- **Oct. 3:** [Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments end national origin quotas](#)
- **Oct. 8:** [The Indonesian Communist Party \(PKI\) headquarters is set on fire, and mass killings continue into March of 1966](#)
- **Oct. 15-16:** Student-run National Coordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam organizes a series of nationwide demonstrations. David J. Miller, a 22 year-old volunteer worker in a relief program run by the Catholic Worker publicly burns his draft card
- **Oct. 28:** St. Louis' Gateway Arch is completed
- **Nov. 2:** Quaker Norman Morrison, 32, commits suicide by setting himself on fire in front of the Pentagon to protest the human suffering and loss of life caused by the Vietnam War
- **Nov. 6:** Cuba and US agree to a regular flight program to allow Cubans who want to go to the US to emigrate
- **Nov. 8:** *Vietnam War* - Operation Hump in Vietnam results in heavy losses for Viet Cong troops, 173rd Airborne, and 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment
- **Nov. 9:** 22 year-old Roger Allen LaPorte sets himself on fire in front of the UN to protest the war in Vietnam
- **Nov. 9-10:** Northeast widespread power failure in several states and parts of Canada
- **Nov. 11:** [Rhodesian white-minority government of Ian Smith declares independence from the United Kingdom](#)
- **Nov. 14:** *Vietnam War* - Battle of Ia Drang Valley is the first major engagement between the US and North Vietnamese armies
- **Nov. 16:** *Space Race* - Soviet Union launches Venera III space probe towards Venus
- **Nov. 20:** [United Nations Security Council advises boycott of Rhodesia](#)
- **Nov. 27:** Anti-war demonstration in Washington, D.C. led by Students for a Democratic Society gains national attention
- **Dec. 10:** The Dutch end their economic boycott of Rhodesia
- **Dec. 15:** [Gemini VI and VII are able to rendezvous in space](#)
- **Dec. 17:** [Oil embargo against Rhodesia initiated by British Government](#)

1966 Events

- **Jan. 2-13:** [12-day transit worker strike in NYC shuts down subway system](#)
- **Jan. 4:** [Military coup in Upper Volta \(later Burkina Faso\) puts lieutenant Colonel Sangoule Lamizana in charge of the army](#)
- **Jan. 10:** *Indo-Pakistani War* - [Tashkent Agreement concludes peace negotiations between India and Pakistan](#)
- **Jan. 14:** Department of State issues a 14-point outline on U.S. position on negotiating peace in Vietnam

- **Jan. 15 -17:** [Prime Minister and other political figures are killed in a Nigerian military coup, which is followed by another military overturning 2 days later](#)
- **Jan. 16:** B-52 bomber carrying hydrogen bombs crashes over the Mediterranean Sea near Palomares, Spain
- **Jan. 26:** [Harold Holt is elected Prime Minister of Australia](#)
- **Feb. 3:** *Space Race* - Unmanned Soviet spacecraft Luna IX lands on the moon
- **Feb. 8:** *Vietnam War* - After meeting with Vietnamese officials, President Johnson states his determination to continue to fight the battle against aggression and for social construction in Vietnam
- **Feb. 23:** [In Uganda Milton Obote suspends the constitution and proclaims himself president power](#)
- **Feb. 24:** [First President of Ghana is overthrown in military coup d'etat](#)
- **Mar. 1:** Ba'ath Party assumes power in Syria
- **Mar.1:** *Space Race* - Soviet space probe Venera III crashes on Venus
- **Mar. 15:** [Race riots reignite in the Watts area of Los Angeles](#)
- **Mar. 16:** *Space Race* - [Neil Armstrong and David Scott successfully dock in space](#)
- **Apr. 13:** [Uniform Time Act is enacted, simplifying the concept of Daylight Savings Time](#)
- **May 26:** [Guyana gains independence from the United Kingdom](#)
- **June 1:** [White House conference on civil rights attracts 2,400 participants](#)
- **June 2:** *Space Race* - [Unmanned U.S. spacecraft Surveyor 1 lands on the moon](#)
- **June 6:** [James Meredith, a civil rights activist, is shot by a sniper in Mississippi during a march](#)
- **June 13:** [Supreme Court establishes necessity for suspects to be read rights in *Miranda v. Arizona*](#)
- **June 29:** *Vietnam War* - [U.S. bombs Hanoi and Haiphong](#)
- **July 4:** [Freedom of Information Act expands disclosure rules of the Administrative Procedure Act](#)
- **July 6:** [Malawi becomes a republic](#)
- **July 8- Aug. 19:** [Commercial airline workers go on strike](#)
- **July 18:** In response to racial tension, riots break out in the Hough area of Cleveland, Ohio
- **Aug. 5:** Martin Luther King, Jr. is stoned during a march in Chicago
- **Aug. 13:** [Mao Zedong begins a cultural revolution in China](#)
- **Aug. 23:** *Space Race* - [Lunar Orbiter 1 takes the first picture of the Earth from the moon](#)
- **Sept. 16:** [The Metropolitan Opera House opens at Lincoln Center in New York City](#)
- **Sept. 29:** [Hurricane Inez devastates Haiti and the Dominican Republic; Florida and Mexico also sustain damage](#)
- **Sept. 30:** [Botswana declares independence from the United Kingdom](#)
- **Oct. 4:** [Lesotho declares independence from the United Kingdom](#)

- **Oct. 6:** A nuclear reactor has a partial meltdown in Detroit
- **Oct. 9:** *Vietnam War* - Binh Tai Massacre in Vietnam
- **Oct. 21:** Coal waste slides down a mountain slope in Aberfan, South Wales, killing children and adults trapped in a school
- **Nov. 8:** Edward Brooke of Massachusetts becomes the first African American elected to the Senate since the Reconstruction Era
- **Nov. 24:** [Smog in New York City is blamed for 400 deaths](#)
- **Nov. 30:** [Barbados achieves independence from the United Kingdom](#)
- **Dec. 6:** *Vietnam War* - Binh Hoa Massacre in Vietnam

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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 Mar. 9, 1965. ([79 Stat. 5; PL89-4](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Apr. 11, 1965. ([79 Stat. 27; PL89-10](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Jan. 1, 1969. Approved June 21, 1965. ([79 Stat. 136; PL89-44](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Older Americans Act of 1965. 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; PL89-73](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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; PL89-74](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Social Security Amendments of 1965. 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. 286; PL89-97](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Americans 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 Aug. 6, 1965. ([79 Stat. 437; PL89-110](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Aug. 9, 1965. ([79 Stat. 448; PL89-115](#))

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 Aug. 10, 1965. ([79 Stat. 451; PL89-117](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Assassination of the President and the Vice President Penalties Act. 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 Aug. 28, 1965. ([79 Stat. 580; PL89-141](#))

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 Sept. 9, 1965. ([79 Stat. 667; PL89-174](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Sept. 29, 1965. ([79 Stat. 845; PL89-209](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Sept. 30, 1965. ([79 Stat. 893; PL89-220](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Oct. 2, 1965. ([79 Stat. 903; PL89-234](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Immigration and Nationality Act Amendment. Repealed the national origin quota of the Immigration and Nationality Act and created a new selection system for immigrants entering the United States which would be on a "first come, first served" basis. Approved Oct. 3, 1965. ([79 Stat. 911; PL89-236](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Oct. 22, 1965. ([79 Stat. 1028; PL89-285](#))

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 Nov. 8, 1965. ([79 Stat. 1219; PL89-329](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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; PL89-487](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Sept. 8, 1966. ([80 Stat. 715; PL89-562](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Sept. 9, 1966. ([80 Stat. 731; PL89-564](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Sept. 23, 1966. ([80 Stat. 830; PL89-601](#)) ([Regulatory History](#)) 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 Oct. 15, 1966. ([80 Stat. 926; PL89-669](#))

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 Oct. 15, 1966. ([80 Stat. 931; PL89-670](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Oct. 16, 1966. ([80 Stat. 1028; PL89-695](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Nov. 3, 1966. ([80 Stat. 1246; PL89-753](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Nov. 3, 1966. ([80 Stat. 1255; PL89-754](#))

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 Nov. 3, 1966. ([80 Stat. 1296](#); [PL89-793](#))

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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