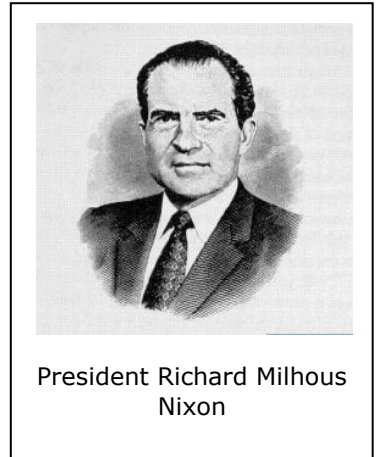


Ninety-First Congress

Jan. 3, 1969-Jan. 2, 1971

First Administration of Richard M. Nixon

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Historical Background

President Richard M. Nixon's inauguration on March 20, 1969 was the punctuation to one of the great comeback stories in American political history. 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 during a time when the Nation was deeply divided by its most unpopular war.

That autumn, 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

House	Senate
Majority Party: Democrat (242 seats)	Majority Party: Democrat (57 seats)
Minority Party: Republican (192 seats)	Minority Party: Republican (43 seats)
Other Parties 0	Other Parties 0
Speaker of the House: John W. McCormack	Majority Leader: Mike Mansfield

of 1969, establishing a Council on Environmental Quality to advise him on environmental matters.

During the second session of the 91st 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 Federal 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 incurred 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.

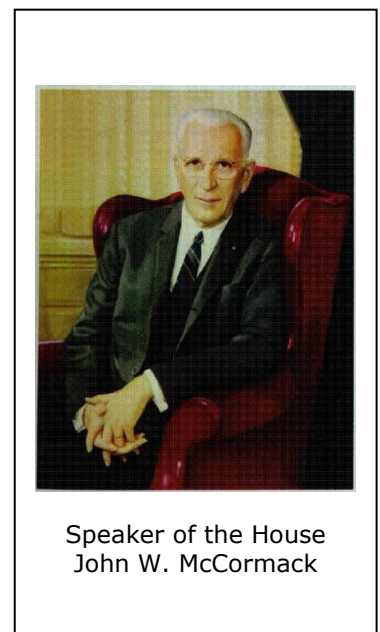
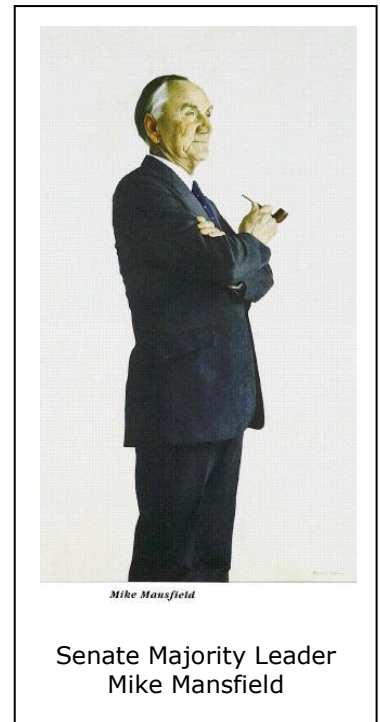
Other notable actions provided for an extension of the food stamp program, a Newspaper Preservation Act, allowing newspapers in the same city to pool their printing business if one was in danger of failing, an extensive urban mass transit act, a Community Development Corporation to carry out loan, and 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, was 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.

Setting matters of politics and governance aside, on July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin made history, becoming the first humans to walk on the surface of the moon. The accomplishment put the punctuation on the challenge set by then President John F. Kennedy nearly a decade before when he exhorted the nation to land a man on the moon and return him safely to earth by the end of the 1960s.

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?

Quagmire in Indochina/Vietnam War

The change of administration in the United States brought with it a complete reevaluation of the strategy for achieving victory in the long-running conflict in Vietnam. One of the earliest policy moves made by the nascent Nixon Administration was aimed at giving the hostile nations of the communist bloc the impression that Nixon was a rash and volatile leader capable of acting unpredictably and disproportionately in response to international events. Described as Nixon's "madman theory," the idea was that if the leadership of the Soviet Union and other communist states were convinced that Nixon was unpredictable and irrational they'd be less likely to provoke him. On the advice of National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, the administration conceived Operation Giant Lance, in which nuclear armed bombers would be flown directly toward Soviet airspace, hoping to convince them that Nixon was capable of anything in furtherance of U.S. aims in Vietnam. The operation began on October 27, though Nixon canceled it on October 30, with no indication that it had achieved its goals.

The administration also signaled a shift in articulating the so-called Nixon Doctrine. In essence, the Nixon Doctrine stated that while the United States will come to the aid and defense of allies, the country would not allow itself to be solely responsible for the security of allied nations. In practical terms for the present conflict, the Nixon Doctrine translated into a policy of "Vietnamization," which would be a gradual devolution of responsibility for security in South Vietnam to the security services of that country. This was to be achieved through a program of training and equipping the South Vietnamese until they are capable of managing their defense against North Vietnam and the Việt Cộng, allowing for a withdrawal of the major part of U.S. military forces in the country, leaving only a small military advisory group in place. To that end, the first U.S. troop withdrawals were announced on June 8, 1969. Developments in the neighborhood, however, were to complicate the strategy in the coming months.

On March 18, 1970, the National Assembly of Cambodia voted to remove Prince Norodom Sihanouk as head of state, with emergency powers claimed by Prime Minister Lon Nol, who effectively became head of state. The shuffle in Cambodia added new layers of complexity to the broader conflict in southeast Asia. Beginning in March 1969, the United States had begun a highly classified bombing campaign, codenamed Operation Menu, against North Vietnamese Army and Việt Cộng positions in eastern Cambodia. Meanwhile, for the North Vietnamese and Việt Cộng, the prosecution of the war against South Vietnam and the United States would be complicated by a loss of their bases and staging grounds in the east of the country. To that end, Lon Nol immediately called for the expulsion of all North Vietnamese and Việt Cộng assets from Cambodia. The United States then doubled down on its secret engagement in Vietnam with the Cambodian Campaign, which was a series of ground incursions in Cambodian territory by the U.S. and



President Grateful to Congress. President Richard M. Nixon on November 13, 1969, in an extraordinary appearance in the House of Representatives Chamber at the Capitol, thanks the House for its support on his Vietnam policy. He made the identical gesture to the United States Senate the same day, from the podium of the Senate Chamber, receiving general applause in both Houses

South Vietnam against North Vietnamese and Việt Cộng positions there. This was supported by Operation Freedom Deal, an intensification of the Operation Menu air campaign expressly targeted to support the Cambodian Campaign incursions. In October 1970, the Khmer Republic was declared in Cambodia, with support from South Vietnam and the United States.

By August, the South Vietnamese Army was defending most of the border while many U.S. forces shifted to more secure locations nearer to Saigon. In December 1970, the Vietnamese Navy took over responsibility for nearly all of the riverine operations in the Mekong Delta. By December 1970, 335,000 U.S. troops remained in Vietnam, down from 474,000 the previous year.

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Economic Trends and Conditions

When President Richard M. Nixon assumed office, the economy was strong, largely due to the combined effects of the war and President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society social programs. Be that as it may, the President saw the increasing budget deficits, inflation, and high interest rates as the immediate economic and fiscal problems facing the nation. Though he made addressing these problems his chief domestic priority, circumstances often made that difficult. The Tax Reform Act of 1969, which the President signed on December 30, 1969, provided for a major reform of the nation's tax policy, and the largest tax cut since the Revenue Act of 1964, complicating the President's goals of curbing the budget deficit and decreasing inflationary pressures.

At the beginning of 1969 the 3.3% overall unemployment rate was the lowest since 1953, but unemployment remained disproportionately high in low-income areas. The prevailing 4-percent rate of inflation was the highest since 1951 and interest rates were at the highest level in history. An income tax surcharged imposed in the previous Administration remained in effect until July 1, 1970. During 1969 the economy suffered the worst inflation in 19 years and real growth slowed. A serious credit squeeze had devastating effects on home building and the construction of public facilities and at the beginning of 1970 unemployment was on the rise. In 1970 the U.S. trade surplus rebounded with a four-fold increase from the depressed levels of the previous year. The liquidity deficit shrank, but the balance of payments ballooned to over \$10 billion, the largest such deficit in history. Overall, the

performance of the economy in 1970 was disappointing. Unemployment rose to 6 percent and prices rose at an average rate of 5½ percent.

The 91st Congress also ushered through some of the most comprehensive environmental statutes in U.S. history. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), enacted January 1, 1970, 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.” The Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970, enacted in April 1970, largely in response to the Cuyahoga River Fire in Ohio, authorized the Federal government to clean up oil spills that threatened the nation’s water supply and recreational areas and made petroleum companies liable for damages and cleanup costs in the event of spills.

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Major Treaties

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](#))

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Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Schools District, upheld the rights of students to wear black arm bands to school in protest of the Vietnam War, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)

Stanley v. Georgia, held that the private possession of materials deemed obscene is protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments, 394 U.S. 557 (1969)

Shapiro v. Thompson, held that certain residency requirements of a federal aid program were in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, in that it impeded the right to travel and still receive aid, 394 U.S. 618 (1969)

Powell v. McCormack, held that the House of Representatives has no power to exclude from membership any person who was duly elected and met constitutional age, citizenship, and residence requirements, 395 U.S. 486 (1969)

Red Lion Broadcasting Co. v. FCC, held that public broadcasters have basic responsibilities to provide fair and adequate coverage of public issues, 395 U.S. 367 (1969)

Brandenburg v. Ohio, held that advocacy of the use of force in violation of the law is protected by the First Amendment, as long as it does not include incitements to imminent lawless action, 395 U.S. 444 (1969)

Goldberg v. Kelly, held that public welfare recipients are entitled under the due process clause of the Constitution to receive an evidentiary hearing prior to discontinuance of benefits, 397 U.S. 254 (1970)

Dandridge v. Williams, held that a Maryland federal aid calculating standard that was based on the number of children in the household, did not violate the Equal Protection Clause or the Social Security Act, as it was a rationally created provision that was free from "invidious discrimination", 397 U.S. 471 (1970)

Williams v. Florida, held that a Florida law allowing six-member juries to serve on criminal cases was constitutional, in that the Sixth Amendment does not require a jury to have twelve members, 399 U.S. 78 (1970)

Oregon v. Mitchell, held that the Federal government was within its power to reduce the voting age for federal elections, eliminate literacy tests, and amend state residency requirements through the Voting Right Act Amendments, but did not have the power to reduce the voting age for state and local elections, 400 U.S. 112 (1970)

Source:

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1969 Events

- **Jan. 5:** *Space Race* – the Soviet Union launches Venera 5 module toward Venus
- **Jan. 14-16:** *Space Race* – the Soviet Union launches Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 modules, which dock together in orbit and transfer astronauts between the vessels by spacewalk, the first time such a transfer had been occurred
- **Jan. 22:** Soviet Army deserter Viktor Ilyin opens fire on a motorcade carrying Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev. Brezhnev is unharmed, though his driver was killed
- **Jan. 28:** [Oil well being drilled by Union Oil Co. offshore in Santa Barbara, California blows out](#)
- **Feb. 4:** Yasser Arafat is elected to lead the Palestine Liberation Organization at the Palestinian National Congress in Cairo
- **Feb. 13:** Members of the Front de libération de Québec (FLQ) terrorist organization bomb the Montreal Stock Exchange
- **Feb. 24:** *Space Race* – [NASA launches the Mariner 6 Mars probe](#)
- **Mar. 2:** Soviet and Chinese forces clash at a border outpost on the Ussuri River
- **Mar. 3-13:** *Space Race* – [NASA launches Apollo 9 to test the lunar module, subsequently returning the module safely to earth](#)
- **Mar. 28:** Former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower succumbs to a long illness and dies at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.
- **Apr. 9:** [300 members of Students for a Democratic Society occupy the Harvard University Administration Building](#)
- **May 15:** An American teenager identified as “Robert R.” dies in St. Louis, Missouri, of a baffling medical condition, which, in 1984, would be identified as the first confirmed death from HIV/AIDS in North America
- **May 18-26:** *Space Race* – [NASA’s Apollo 10 is launched as a full rehearsal of the Apollo 11 moon landing, stopping 15 kilometers short of the lunar surface and returning safely to earth](#)
- **June 8:** *Vietnam War* – [President Nixon meets with South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu at Midway Island in the Pacific and announces that the U.S. would begin to reduce combat troops in Vietnam in July](#)
- **June 28:** [The Stonewall riots in New York City occur, marking the start of the modern gay \(LGBT\) rights movement in the U.S.](#)
- **July 20:** *Space Race* – [Apollo 11 lands on the moon and astronaut Neil Armstrong takes “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”](#)
- **Aug. 9:** Members of the Manson Family invade the home of Roman Polanski and his wife Sharon Tate, murdering Tate and four others
- **Sept. 1:** Libyan King Idris is deposed in a bloodless coup that brings Colonel Muammar Qaddafi to power

- **Sept. 4:** *Vietnam War* – [Hanoi Radio announces that North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh had died of a heart attack](#)
- **Oct. 8-11:** [Days of Rage antiwar protest sponsored by Students for a Democratic Society in Chicago](#)

1970 Events

- **Mar. 5:** [The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty enters into force upon the ratification of 56 signatory nations](#)
- **Mar. 6:** [Members of the Weatherman paramilitary protest group are killed in a New York City townhouse explosion set off during a bomb-making accident](#)
- **Mar. 16:** U.S. announces that it was validating U.S. passport for travel to China for any legitimate purpose
- **Mar. 17:** *Vietnam War* – the U.S. Army charges 14 officers with attempting to cover up the My Lai Massacre
- **Mar. 18:** [Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk is overthrown in a coup led by Lon Nol](#)
- **Apr. 8:** Israeli Air Force F-4 Phantom II fighter bombers launch a strike on a suspected Egyptian military target in eastern Egypt. The target turns out to be a school in the village of Bahr el-Baqar; 46 children die
- **Apr. 13:** [Explosion in Apollo 13 spacecraft forces crew to abort lunar mission](#)
- **Apr. 17:** [Apollo 13 crew returns safely to Earth](#)
- **April 30:** *Vietnam War* – [President Nixon announces that U.S. troops are attacking North Vietnamese and Vietcong sanctuaries in Cambodia](#)
- **May 4:** [Student protesters at Kent State University are shot and killed by Ohio State National Guardsmen during a protest against U.S. forces entering Cambodia](#)
- **May 9:** *Vietnam War* – 100,000 people demonstrate against the Vietnam War in Washington D.C.
- **June 24:** *Vietnam War* – [The U.S. Senate repeals the Tonkin Gulf Resolution of 1964](#)
- **Aug. 17:** The Soviet Union launch Venera 7 toward Venus, where it would become the first probe to transmit data to earth from the surface of another planet
- **Sept. 1:** [Prince Idris of Libya is overthrown in a coup led by Muammar al-Gaddafi](#)
- **Nov. 3:** [Salvador Allende becomes president of Chile](#)

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["Murder at Kent State University."](#) Congressional Record, 91st Congress, 2nd Session (May 13, 1970) Vol. 116, pp. 15360-15361. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1970-0513

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Paine, T. O. [Twenty-first, Semiannual report to Congress, January 1 - June 30, 1969](#). National Aeronautics and Space Administration, May 27, 1970. 91st Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 91-314. ProQuest Congressional, 12909-1 H.doc.314

Patitucci, Jean B. [Chronology of Development Relating to Vietnam: July-September 1969](#). Foreign Affairs Division (LRS), Oct. 31, 1969. 91st Congress, 1st Session, 69-231 F. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1969-FAX-0010

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[Weather Underground](#). Committee on the Judiciary. Senate, Jan. 1, 1975. 94th Congress, 1st Session, 75-S522-3 (Y4.J89/2:W37). ProQuest Congressional, CMP-1975-SJS-0006

Major Acts

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 Nov. 6, 1969. ([83 Stat. 187; PL91-113](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Dec. 30, 1969. ([83 Stat. 487; PL91-172](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. Created new standards for maintaining the health and safety of coal mining industry workers, including standards on the control of respirable dust, the requirement of seasonal inspections of workers' environments, reporting of accidents, and penalties for violators. Approved Dec. 30, 1969. ([84 Stat. 742; PL91-173](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Dec. 30, 1969. ([83 Stat. 805; PL91-175](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Jan. 1, 1970. ([83 Stat. 852; PL91-190](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Apr. 3, 1970. ([84 Stat. 91; PL91-224](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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; PL91-258](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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; PL91-285](#)) 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) ([Regulatory History](#))

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; PL91-353](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Aug. 12, 1970. ([84 Stat. 719; PL91-375](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Defense Production Act Amendments and Economic Stabilization Act of 1970. Extended the Defense Production Act and established the uniform cost accounting standards for particular defense procurement contracts to improve upon expense allocation. Approved Aug. 15, 1970. ([84 Stat. 796; PL91-379](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Organized Crime Control Act of 1970. 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 Oct. 15, 1970. ([84 Stat. 922; PL91-452](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Oct.15, 1970. ([84 Stat. 962; PL91-453](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Federal Deposit Insurance Act Amendments. Required the Secretary of Treasury to promulgate and enforce regulations wherein insured financial institutions must maintain records that may be useful in criminal, tax, or regulatory investigations. Also provided for recordkeeping and reporting of domestic currency transactions, exports, imports, and foreign transactions by United States citizens and residents. Lastly, it amended the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the obtaining or retaining of credit in violation of Section 7(a), which prevents the excessive use of credit for purchasing or carrying of securities. Approved Oct. 26, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1114; PL91-508](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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. Re-designated 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 Oct. 26, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1140; PL91-510](#))

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 Oct. 27, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1236; PL91-513](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Oct. 30, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1327; PL91-518](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Nov. 30, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1358; PL91-524](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970.

Provided for the comprehensive dissemination of information on family planning services, as well as extensive research on family planning as it relates to population growth. Also provided for new grants and contracts for programs centered on family planning projects stemming from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Approved Dec. 24, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1504; PL91-572](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Plant Variety Protection Act. Provided for the issuance of “certificates of plant variety protection” which would protect developers of new varieties of sexually reproduced plants to have exclusive selling, reproduction, import, and export rights. Also established the Plant Variety Protection Office under the administration of the Department of Agriculture. Approved Dec. 24, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1542; PL91-577](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Dec. 29, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1590; PL91-596](#)) ([Regulatory History](#)) 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 Dec. 30, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1636; PL91-598](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Poison 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 Dec. 30, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1670; PL91-601](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Dec. 31, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1676; PL91-604](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Dec. 31, 1970 ([84 Stat. 1760; PL91-607](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Dec. 31, 1970. ([84 Stat. 1770; PL91-609](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Jan. 11, 1971. ([84 Stat. 2048; PL91-671](#)) 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) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Jan. 12, 1971. ([84 Stat. 2053; PL91-672](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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 Dec. 2, 1970. ([84 Stat. 2086](#))

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 Oct. 3, 1970. ([84 Stat. 2090](#))

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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