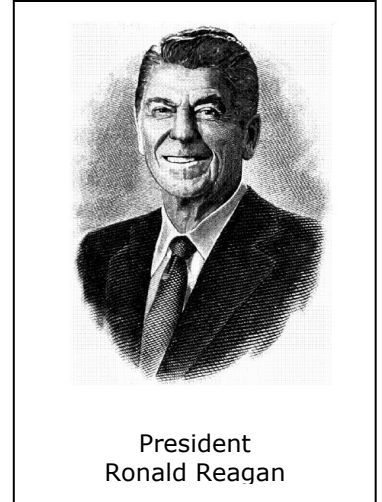


Ninety-Ninth Congress

January 3, 1985 – January 3, 1987

Second Administration of Ronald Wilson Reagan

Historical Background.....	1
War or Peace?	2
Economic Trends and Conditions.....	3
Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions	4
1985 Events	7
1986 Events	8
Major Acts.....	10



Historical Background

President Reagan was sworn in for his second administration on January 21, 1985 and continued the path he set the nation on during his first administration. He further reigned in on federal spending with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 that created deep cuts if a balanced budget could not be met. He also signed the Tax Reform Act of 1986, which lowered tax rates on the wealthiest Americans and raised rates on the lowest brackets, stating that “pushing down tax rates has freed our economy to vault forward to record growth.”

Military strength was a focus of the Reagan administration. Regan stated “we only have a military industrial complex until a time of danger [...] then it becomes the arsenal of democracy.” The Goldwater-Nichols Act helped streamline the chain-of-command within the Department of Defense and increased the responsibilities of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Naval, Marine Corp, and Air Force personnel were used to Libya in Operation El Dorado Canyon and Army helicopters helped transport Bolivian officials during anti-drug operations.

Civil rights and liberties were also important topics covered during the 99th Congress. Age discrimination in the workplace was addressed with the passage of the Age Discrimination in Employment Amendments. The Electronic Privacy Communications Act helped limit government access to telephone wire taps and electronic computer data transmissions. Protections for gun owners were passed with the Firearm Owners Protection Act that required warrants in gun inspections conducted by the government and stopped the compilation of owner lists from dealer records. Congress addressed issues related to racism as well by enacting economic sanctions against South Africa in the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986.

House	Senate
Majority Party: Democrat (255 seats)	Majority Party: Republican (53 seats)
Minority Party: Republican (180 seats)	Minority Party: Democrat (47 seats)
Other Parties: 0	Other Parties: 0
Speaker of the House: Thomas Phillip “Tip” O’Neill, Jr.	Majority Leader: Robert (Bob) J. Dole

Sources:

Reagan, Ronald W. *State of the Union Message, Message from the President*. House, Feb. 6, 1985. 99th Congress, 1st Session, H. Doc. 99-25 (Y1.1/7:99-25). ProQuest Congressional, 13631 H.doc.25

Reagan, Ronald W. *State of the Union Message, Message from the President*. House, Feb. 4, 1986. 99th Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 99-141 (Y1.1/7:99-141). ProQuest Congressional, 13682 H.doc.141

War or Peace?

Unrest in the Middle East

The United States continued a larger foreign presence under President Reagan, including stationing service members to various locations throughout the Middle East. The U.S. carried out Operation El Dorado Canyon, consisting of naval and air strikes in Libya as response to an April 1986 nightclub bombing in Berlin, Germany that killed several U.S. military personnel. The U.S. authorized the operation after it was revealed that Libyan officials had organized and funded the bombing. The U.S. targeted key military and suspected terrorist sites, killing forty-five Libyan soldiers and officials and destroying helicopters, MiG fighter aircrafts, and radar sensors. The only U.S. casualties were two aircrew members who were shot down.

Iran-Contra

In December 1981, at the end of his first year in office, President Reagan issued a Presidential finding authorizing U.S. support for the Contras, a loosely affiliated network of right-wing militia engaged in a guerilla rebellion against the democratic socialist Sandinista-led government of Nicaragua, which was followed the next year by the top secret National Security Decision Directive 17 (NSDD 17), which authorized the CIA to train and support the Contras and anti-leftist rebels in El Salvador. The program to aid the Contras was troubled almost from the outset, with reports of gross human rights abuses carried out by the Contras, often with CIA collaboration, trickling steadily out of Central America. Beginning in December 1982 and affirmed two further times, the Congress responded to these reports by enacting the so-called Boland Amendments, prohibiting the use of appropriated funds for support of the Contras.

Following this, in November 1986, during the 99th Congress, the Lebanese magazine *Ash-Shiraa* reported for the first time that the United States had agreed to sell arms to Iran in exchange for Iranian assistance in freeing U.S. hostages being held in Lebanon. Prior to the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the government of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi was the largest customer for U.S. manufactured arms in the world. When, in November 1979, student activists in Iran stormed the U.S. embassy, taking 52 Americans hostage, President Jimmy Carter issued an embargo on arms sales to Iran. Thus, if true, the reports, which implicated several high-ranking members of the Reagan administration in the scheme, including Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane, could have been disastrous for the administration. In addition to the arms sales being in violation of U.S. law, Iran's urgent need for arms and spare parts was a direct



Senate Majority Leader
Robert (Bob) J. Dole



Speaker of the House
Thomas Phillip "Tip"
O'Neill, Jr.

result of the country's war with Iraq, which in turn was receiving military support from the United States and its allies.

Shortly after the report first appeared in *Ash-Shiraa*, the Iranian government confirmed the broader details of the program. Then, on November 13, President Reagan addressed the nation from the Oval Office, confirming that the United States had indeed agreed to sell arms to Iran as part of a broader effort to rehabilitate U.S.-Iranian relations. At the same time, the President insisted, when "we undertook this initiative, we made clear that Iran must oppose all forms of international terrorism as a condition of progress in our relationship. The most significant step which Iran could take, we indicated, would be to use its influence in Lebanon to secure the release of all hostages held there." Though the President claimed that the motivation for the program was to coax Iran to abjure the use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy and to secure their assistance in negotiating for the release of American hostages, it would later be revealed in the course of a Congressional investigation that the first sale of arms to Iran occurred in 1981, considerably earlier than the first hostage was taken. The situation was further complicated when it was revealed that Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, who was on staff at the National Security Council during this time, had destroyed or hidden documents pertaining to the program in late-November 1986. When all was said and done, at least nine members of the Reagan Administration were indicted in the affair, with eight convictions, two of which would be overturned. Six of the convicted co-conspirators received pardons during the Presidency of George H.W. Bush.

Sources:

Committee on Foreign Affairs. House. [*Foreign Policy Implications of Arms Sales to Iran and the Contra Connection*](#). GPO, Nov. 24, Dec. 8-9, 1986. 99th Congress, 2nd Session. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1986-FOA-0054

Reagan, Ronald W. [*Use of U.S. Armed Forces in Libya, Communication from the President*](#). Committee on Foreign Affairs. House, Apr. 16, 1986. 99th Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 99-201 (Y1.1/7:99-201). ProQuest Congressional, 13688 H.doc.201

Economic Trends and Conditions

In President Reagan's 1986 Economic Report, his economic strategy was defined as "restraining the growth of federal government, reducing personal and business taxes, reducing regulatory excesses, and encouraging stable and moderate monetary growth." His belief was that private industries would be better serving the public on duties that were generally carried out by federal government. While President Reagan focused on shrinking the federal government and noted that the defense budget was down nearly \$100 billion from 1982, he also stated "the Federal Government has several definite responsibilities [...]. The first is to provide an adequate national defense." Moreover, he stated that his administration sought to provide an appropriate safety net for the poor, highlighting significant declining poverty rates since 1984 and tax reforms that would exempt the working poor from income taxes.

When President Reagan addressed the nation in 1986, he continued his small government rhetoric that defined his first administration, describing big government as a “lumbering giant, slamming shut the gates of opportunity threatening to crush the very roots of freedom.” Much of his first administration consisted of recovery efforts in the wake of a crippling recession. He highlighted his administration’s successes as thirty-seven months of continued economic growth, the addition of 9 million jobs, up 1.5 million from the year before, lowered interest rates, and the smallest overall rise in inflation since 1980. President Reagan also signed legislation that cut the top tax bracket from 50% down to 35%, and raised the lowest bracket from 11% to 15%.

Sources:

Reagan, Ronald W. [*Economic Report of the President*](#). Committee on Economic Joint, Feb. 1, 1986. 99th Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 99-142. ProQuest Congressional, 13682 H.doc.142

Reagan, Ronald W. [*State of the Union Message, Message from the President*](#). House, Feb. 4, 1986. 99th Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 99-141 (Y1.1/7:99-141). ProQuest Congressional, 13682 H.doc.141

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

New Jersey v. T.L.O. (a Juvenile), held that warrantless searches and seizures do not apply to public school students and therefore are reasonable under the Fourth Amendment, [469 U.S. 325](#) (1985)

Wainwright v. Witt, concluded that jurors can be excused from jury due to beliefs on capital punishment during the voir dire, [470 U.S. 1039](#) (1985)

Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority, held that the San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority was subject to laws passed by Congress, even though it was providing a “traditional” government function and had to abide by the minimum wage and overtime pay requirements enacted by the Fair Labor Standards Act, [469 U.S. 528](#) (1985)

Federal Election Commission v. National Conservative Political Action Committee, held that the Federal Election Campaign Act violated the National Conservative Political Action Committee’s First Amendment rights when it prohibited independent action committees from spending more than a thousand dollars in support of presidential candidates, [470 U.S. 480](#) (1985)

Ake v. Oklahoma, concluded that an indigent criminal defendant in a murder case where the death penalty could be assessed had a right to have the state provide a psychiatric evaluation to be used in the defendant's behalf, [470 U.S. 68](#) (1985)

Hunter v. Underwood, held that blocking persons from voting on the basis of race was a clear violation of the Equal Protection Clause, [471 U.S. 222](#) (1985)

Harper & Row, Publishers v. Nation Enterprises, concluded that fair use is not a defense to the appropriation of work by famous political figure simply

because that public interest in learning of that political figure's account of an historic event, [471 U.S. 539](#) (1985)

Wallace v. Jaffree, held that a state statute which permits, but does not require, teachers in public schools to observe up to a minute of non-activity for meditation or silent prayer is a law respecting the establishment of religion and thus violates the First Amendment, [472 US 38](#) (1985)

Thornton v. Caldor, held that a Connecticut statute which sanctioned the absolute right of an employee to not work on their Sabbath was a violation of the Establishment Clause and did not abide by the separation of church and state, [472 U.S. 703](#) (1985)

Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. v. Greenmoss Builders, Inc., held that a jury can award punitive damages in a private speech defamation case without the instruction of a trial judge, [472 U.S. 749](#) (1985)

School District of the City of Grand Rapids v. Ball, held that the supplementing of private schools with secular classes with tax-payer money did not abide by the separation of church and state, [473 U.S. 373](#) (1985)

Aguilar v. Felton, held that paying parochial school teachers with funds for Title I public schools was a violation of the Establishment Clause, [473 U.S. 402](#) (1985)

City of Cleburne, Texas v. Cleburne Living Center, held that the denial of a permit to a facility for the intellectually disabled was prejudiced and in violation of the Equal Protection Clause, [473 U.S. 432](#) (1985)

Cornelius v. NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., held that Executive Order No. 12404, which limits participation in the Combined Federal Campaign to traditional health and welfare charities and thus excludes legal advocacy groups, does not violate the First Amendment, [473 US 788](#) (1985)

Vasquez v. Hillery, held that the District Court was in error to apply a rule of Per Se reversible error to a case of discriminatory grand jury selection where there was overwhelming evidence of the defendant's guilt and where the defendant received a full and fair trial, [474 US 254](#) (1986)

Pacific Gas and Electric Company v. The Public Utilities Commission of the State of California, held that an order of a state public utilities commission's much be vacated, in that it violated First Amendment rights by compelling a privately-owned public utility to include its monthly billing envelope to fund solicitation messages of a third-party, [475 US 1](#) (1986)

Goldman v. Weinberger, concluded that The Free Exercise Clause does not protect religious apparel from military uniform regulations, [475 U.S. 503](#) (1986)

Michigan v. Jackson, affirmed the Michigan Supreme Court's decision and concluded that the Sixth Amendment right to counsel requires that if police initiate an interrogation after a defendant's assertion of his right to counsel

at an arraignment or similar proceeding, any waiver of that right for that police-initiated interrogation is invalid, [475 U.S. 625](#) (1986)

Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc. v. Hepps, reversed the decision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and held that Pennsylvania's "shield law," which allows employees of the media to refuse to divulge their sources, places a heavier burden on appellees, the precise scope of that law is unclear and, under these circumstances, it does not appear that such law requires a different constitutional standard than would prevail in the absence of such law, [475 US 767](#) (1986)

Batson v. Kentucky, reaffirmed that a State denies a black defendant equal protection when it puts him on trial before a jury from which members of his race have been purposefully excluded, [476 US 79](#) (1986)

Wygant v. Jackson Board of Education, reversed the decision of the lower courts and held that the Constitution tolerates racial preferences for teacher layoffs adopted by a public employer in the absence of findings of past discrimination, based solely upon a disparity between the respective percentages of minority faculty and students, [476 US 267](#) (1986)

Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., held that a court cannot award summary judgment in a libel action if the moving party had no "clear and convincing" evidence, in that the purpose of summary judgments is to determine if the evidence is so one-sided that a party should prevail as a matter of law, [477 US 242](#) (1986)

Ford v. Wainwright, the Eighth Amendment prohibits the state from executing anyone who is insane and raised the issue execution time sanity must be determined in a proceeding satisfying the minimum requirements of due process, [477 U.S. 399](#) (1986)

Davis v. Bandemer, reversed the ruling of the lower court and held that gerrymandering such as occurred in this case of the Indiana legislature is properly justiciable under the Equal Protection Clause, as there were no sufficient findings to support the conclusion of unconstitutional political gerrymandering, [478 US 109](#) (1986)

Bowers v. Hardwick, held that Georgia's sodomy statute infringes upon the fundamental rights of homosexuals and is therefore unconstitutional, [478 US 186](#) (1986)

Posadas de Puerto Rico Associates v. Tourism Company of Puerto Rico, held that Section 8 of the Games of Chance Act of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as amended, was repugnant to the Constitution of the United States though it did not it violate the Free Speech Clause guaranteed by the First Amendment, and the protected commercial speech rights thereunder, and did not violate the Equal Protection Clause or the Due Process Clause embraced in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment due to the vagueness and over breadth of the statute's no-advertising provision and its lack of definitions or reasonable standards for the interpretation of what constitutes "advertise or otherwise offer", [478 US 328](#) (1986)

Local 28 v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (Sheet Metal Workers v. EEOC), affirmed the decision of the lower courts and held that a district court may order a race-conscious affirmative action program under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act to benefit nonwhites, including a percentage "goal" for nonwhite membership and a judicial threat that the goal must be met by a specified date, [478 US 421](#) (1986)

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, held that the First Amendment did not prevent a School District from disciplining the respondent, a high school student that gave a speech containing sexual innuendo, for giving the offensively lewd and indecent speech at the assembly, [478 US 675](#) (1986)

Bowsher v. Synar, held that it was unconstitutional for the Comptroller General to perform administrative functions of a fact finding nature assigned to him by a 1985 law, merely because the 1921 law creating his office contains a provision for his removal for cause after hearing by enactment of a joint resolution presented to the President for approval or veto, when neither the President nor Congress has ever attempted to remove a Comptroller General for cause or otherwise and there has been no determination of their respective constitutional powers to do so, [478 US 714](#) (1986)

Source:

Costello, George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [Constitution of the United States of America. Analysis and Interpretation](#). CRS, Library of Congress, Jan. 1, 1996. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 103-6 (Y1.1/3:103-6). ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

1985 Events

- **Jan. 15:** [Tancredo Neves is elected President of Brazil by the Congress, a move that would end 21 years of military rule. Neves died before he could take office](#)
- **Feb. 19:** [William Schroeder leaves the hospital after having the first successful artificial heart is implanted in him](#)
- **Mar. 8:** A car bomb explodes in Beirut, Lebanon, possibly with CIA involvement, killing 80 people and leaving its intended target, the Shi'a Cleric Sayyed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, unharmed.
- **Mar. 11:** [Mikhail Gorbachev becomes the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and de facto leader of the Union Soviet Socialist Republics](#)
- **Mar. 16:** [Associated Press reporter Terry Anderson is taken hostage in Beirut, Lebanon](#)
- **Apr. 12:** Terrorist group Islamic Jihad Organization claimed responsibility for bombing a restaurant in Madrid, Spain, killing 18 Spaniards, and 11 American service members
- **May 13:** Eleven members of the black liberation group, MOVE, are killed in Philadelphia, PA, in a standoff after Mayor Wilson Goode orders police to use an explosive device that results in a fire that destroys 61 nearby homes

- **May 15:** An explosive sent by Unabomber Ted Kaczynski injures John Hauser at the University of California, Berkeley
- **June 14:** [TWA Flight 847, en route from Athens to Rome, is hijacked over Greece by Lebanese Shi'a Muslims with murky connections to the Lebanese Shi'a militia Hezbollah. U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem is killed during the course of the hijacking](#)
- **June 23:** Air India Flight 182 explodes 31,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, kill all 329 aboard
- **July 4:** Ruth Lawrence becomes the youngest person, 13, to graduate with a First-class degree from Oxford University with a degree in mathematics
- **Aug. 12:** Japan Airlines Flight 123 crashes in Japan, claiming 520 lives in the worst single aircraft disaster in history
- **Aug. 20:** *Iran-Contra Affair* – [The first arms are sent to Iran in exchange for the release of hostages in Lebanon and to fund the Contras in Nicaragua](#)
- **Sept. 19:** [A massive earthquake, measuring 8.1 on the Richter Scale, hits Mexico City, killing nearly 10,000, injuring 30,000, and leaving 95,000 homeless](#)
- **Oct. 18:** The first Nintendo video game console is released in the U.S.
- **Nov. 19:** [U.S. President Reagan and Soviet head Mikhail Gorbachev meet for the first time in Geneva, Switzerland](#)
- **Dec. 27:** Palestinian extremist Abu Nidal orders an attack at the Rome, Italy and Vienna, Austria airports, killing 18 and injuring 120 people

1986 Events

- **Jan. 19:** The first PC computer virus, Brain, begins infecting computers
- **Jan. 28:** [The Space Shuttle Challenger explodes after takeoff, killing the entire crew](#)
- **Feb. 16:** The Mir Space Station is launched by the Soviet Union
- **Feb. 25:** [During the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev introduces the terms that would become synonymous with his tenure: Glasnost and Perestroika](#)
- **Feb. 28:** [Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme is shot dead on his way home from a cinema in Stockholm, Sweden](#)
- **Mar. 9:** [U.S. Navy divers discover the damaged, yet intact passenger capsule of the Space Shuttle Challenger, with the crews bodies still inside](#)
- **Apr. 26:** *Chernobyl Disaster* - [The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine mishandles a safety test, initialing killing 4056 people, causing \\$7 billion in property damages, and misplacing 350,000 people as a result of radioactive fallout near the countries of Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia](#)

- **May 25:** [Hands Across America – 6.5 million people ‘joined hands’ to cover the distance of the continental United States to raise money for homelessness and hunger](#)
- **June 4:** [Jonathan Pollard is found guilty of espionage after selling U.S. intelligence secrets to Israel](#)
- **July 27:** [Prince Andrew, Duke of York marries Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abby in London](#)
- **Aug. 21:** A toxic cloud of carbon dioxide seeps out of Lake Nyos, Cameroon, asphyxiating 1,700 people and 3,500 livestock that surround the shores of the lake
- **Sept. 22:** Palestinian extremist Abu Nidal orders an attack on the Neve Shalom synagogue in Istanbul, Turkey that kills 22 and injures 6
- **Oct. 10:** [An earthquake strikes San Salvador, El Salvador, measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale and kills 1,500](#)
- **Nov. 3:** [The Lebanese magazine Ash-Shiraa reveals sales of weapons by the U.S. to Iran to secure the release of 7 U.S. hostages in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups, known as the Iran-Contra Affair](#)
- **Dec. 20:** [Three African-American youths are assaulted by a white mob in Howard Beach, Queens, New York City where one of the victims is killed by a passing motorist attempting to flee his attackers](#)

Sources:

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. [Implementation of the Helsinki Accords Glasnost: The Soviet Policy of "Openness."](#) GPO, Mar. 4, 1987. 100th Congress, 1st Session, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe Serial No. CSCE 100-1-10. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1987-CSC-0002

Committee on Science and Technology. House. [Investigation of the Challenger Accident \(Vol. 2\).](#) GPO, July 15-16, 23-24, 1986. 99th Congress, 2nd Session, Committee on Science and Technology Serial No. 139. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1986-TEC-0029

["An Endless Night."](#) Congressional Record, 99th Congress, 1st Session (Mar. 20, 1985) Vol. 131, pp. 5692-5715. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1985-0320

["The Forgotten Seven of the Beirut Hostages."](#) Congressional Record, 99th Congress, 1st Session (June 26, 1985) Vol. 131, pp. 17396-17397. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1985-0626

["The Howard Beach Incident Anniversary."](#) Congressional Record, 100th Congress, 1st Session (Dec. 20, 1987) Vol. 133, p. 36711. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1987-1220

["Humanitarian Response to the Earthquake in Mexico City."](#) Congressional Record, 99th Congress, 1st Session (Sept. 19, 1985) Vol. 131, p. 24358. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1985-0919

["The Pollard Affair."](#) Congressional Record, 100th Congress, 1st Session (Mar. 17, 1987) Vol. 133, p. 5998. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1987-0317

["Public Law 99-623: Reaffirming our friendship and sympathy with the people of El Salvador following the devastating earthquake of October 10, 1986."](#) (100 Stat. 3496; Nov. 6, 1986). ProQuest Congressional

Reagan, Ronald. [Hands Across America Day, 1986. Federal Register, 1984-2014.](#) May 23, 1986. Presidential Proclamation No. 5493. ProQuest Congressional, 1986-PR-5493

["Reagan-Gorbachev Summit-- Human Rights Issue."](#) Congressional Record, 99th Congress, 1st Session (Nov. 19, 1985) Vol. 131, pp. 32500-32501. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1985-1119

["The Royal Wedding."](#) Congressional Record, 99th Congress, 2nd Session (July 23, 1986) Vol. 132, p. 17340. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1986-0723

["Senate Resolution 195 -- Concerning TWA Flight 847."](#) Congressional Record, 99th Congress, 1st Session (June 27, 1985) Vol. 131, pp. 17679-17681. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1985-0627

Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power, Committee on Energy and Commerce. House. [Soviet Nuclear Accident at Chernobyl](#). GPO, May 1, 7, 1986. 99th Congress, 2nd Session, Committee on Energy and Commerce Serial No. 99-138. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1986-HEC-0038

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, Committee on Science and Technology. House. [Status of the Artificial Heart Program](#). GPO, Feb. 5, 1986. 99th Congress, 2nd Session, 86-H701-52 (Y4.Sci2:99/94). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1986-TEC-0007

Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Senate. [Space Shuttle Accident](#). GPO, Feb. 18, June 10, 17, 1986. 99th Congress, 2nd Session, S. HRG. 99-967. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1986-CST-0038

["There Is No Replacement for Olof Palme."](#) Congressional Record, 99th Congress, 2nd Session (Mar. 3, 1986) Vol. 132, p. 3377. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1986-0303

["Relating to Death of President-Elect Tancredo Neves of Brazil."](#) Congressional Record, 99th Congress, 1st Session (June 3, 1985) Vol. 131, pp. 13883-13884. ProQuest Congressional, CR-1985-0603

Woldman, Joel M., David E. Lockwood, and Maureen Wylie. [The Iran/Contra Affair: Implications for the National Security Adviser and the NSC Staff](#). Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division (CRS), July 23, 1987. 100th Congress, 1st Session, IB87107. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1987-FND-182480

Major Acts

Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Allowed the debt ceiling to be raised and created a budget deficit reduction, attempting to balance the federal budget by 1991. If deficits continued, automatic spending cuts were triggered by slashing defense and domestic discretionary spending, both in half. Approved Dec. 12, 1985. ([99 Stat. 1037; PL99-177](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Gold Bullion Coin Act of 1985. Established requirements for the size, weight, graphics, inscriptions, marketing, and sale for gold coins minted by the federal government. Approved Dec. 17, 1985, ([99 Stat. 1177; PL99-185](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Food Security Act of 1985. Established lower commodity prices and income supports and established a dairy herd buyout program. Also made changes in a variety of other United States Department of Agriculture programs, and created several conservation program including sodbuster, swamp-buster, and the Conservation Reserve Program. Approved Dec. 23, 1985. ([99 Stat. 1354; PL99-198](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Compact of Free Association Act of 1985. Provides for the economic assistance and defense of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the

Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau in exchange for defense uses and certain operating rights within the given island nations. Approved Jan. 14, 1986. ([99 Stat. 1770; PL99-239](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985. Established conditions for workers to keep their current health coverage during times of voluntary or involuntary job loss, reduction in working hours, and transition between jobs, among other items. It also denied income tax deductions to employers (with 20 or more full time employees) for contributions to a group health plan unless plans meet certain continuing coverage requirements. Approved Apr. 7, 1986. ([100 Stat. 82; PL99-272](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Firearm Owners' Protection Act. Established sales of long guns, within some limitations and allowed the interstate transport of firearms, provided no local laws are broken in the process. Prevents the government from creating a list of gun owners from dealer records and limited the number of inspections on a dealer by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms without search warrants. It allowed for ammunition shipments through the US Postal Service. Approved May 19, 1986. ([100 Stat. 449; PL99-308](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. Established increased power of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; increased chain of command efficiency by bypassing service chiefs, who were reassigned to advisory roles. Command was run directly from the President and Secretary of Defense down to combatant commanders. Approved Oct. 1, 1986. ([100 Stat. 992; PL99-433](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986. Established economic sanctions on South Africa and covered conditions for which said sanctions would be lifted. Approved Oct. 2, 1986. ([100 Stat. 1086; PL99-440](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. Stressed the importance of permanent remedies and innovative treatment technologies in cleaning up hazardous waste sites. Required Superfund actions to consider the standards and requirements found in other State and Federal environmental laws and regulations, and increased the focus on human health problems posed by hazardous waste sites. The size of the trust fund was increased to \$8.5 billion. Approved Oct. 17, 1986. ([100 Stat. 1613; PL99-499](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986. Established government restrictions on wire taps from telephones to include the transmission of electronic data by computers, restricted access to stored electronic communications, and permitted tracing telephone communications with "pen registers" and "trap and trace devices." Approved Oct. 21, 1986. ([100 Stat. 2085; PL99-508](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Tax Reform Act of 1986. Lowered the top tax rate from 50% to 28% and raised the bottom tax rate from 11% to 15%. The Act also required people claiming children as dependents to provide Social Security numbers for each child on their tax returns, expanded the Alternative Minimum Tax and increased the Home Mortgage Interest Deduction. Approved Oct. 22, 1986. ([100 Stat. 2085; PL99-514](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986. Established punitive measures in the federal supervised release and introduced mandatory minimum sentences for possession of narcotics, including 5 years without parole for 5 grams of crack cocaine. Approved Oct. 27, 1986. ([100 Stat. 3207; PL99-570](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Age Discrimination in Employment Amendments of 1986. Established prohibitions against discrimination in hiring, promotions, wages, or termination of employment and layoffs. Addressed statements or specifications in job notices or advertisements of age preference and limitations, the denial of benefits to older employees, and prohibited mandatory retirement in most sectors. Approved Oct. 31, 1986. ([100 Stat. 3342; PL99-592](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Established requirements for employers to attest to their employees' immigration status. Made it illegal to knowingly hire or recruit unauthorized immigrants; legalized certain seasonal agricultural illegal immigrants, and legalized illegal immigrants who entered the United States before January 1, 1982 and had resided there continuously with the penalty of a fine, back taxes due, and admission of guilt. Approved Nov. 6, 1986. ([100 Stat. 3359; PL99-603](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Copyright©2018, ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.