

PART IV:

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT/CIVICS

One of the ten themes of social studies standards promoted by the National Council for the Social Studies is "Power, Authority, and Governance." According to this strand, teachers should propose the following questions to students in their discussion of perennial and current issues: "What is power? What forms does it take? Who holds it? How is it gained, used and justified? What is legitimate authority? How are governments created, structured, maintained and changed? How can we keep government responsive to its citizens' needs and interests? How can individual rights be protected within the context of majority rule?"

Photos relevant to the presidency denote the many different hats that must be worn by the chief executive. As one of the most photographed individuals in the world, the **President** has the power to shape policy through the manipulation of the media. Standard 3 of the National Standards for Civics and Government asks, "How does the government established by the Constitution embody the purposes, values and principles of American democracy?" The Constitution spends more time describing the procedures for the election of a president than describing the powers and duties of the president. Why might that be? Is it reflective of the time that presidents spend today, i.e. campaigning versus executing the duties of president? What are the president's major functions, as far as students are concerned? Are these mentioned in the Constitution?



President Clinton smiles for photographers as thousands of flag-waving Danes cheer following his address to the Danish people in Copenhagen on the last day of a week-long European tour Saturday July 12, 1997.

The celebration of our ethnic heritage presents to students the opportunity to discuss and analyze the value of cultural **diversity** in the United States. Photos depicting the issuance of a new **Kwanzaa** postage stamp, the celebration of Native American and Tibetan ceremonies and the contributions made in the areas of music and the arts have made an indelible mark on the American culture and illustrates the persistence of individuals to create changes in policy by using the political system. Here the Kwanzaa stamp is pictured at its issuance. Students who collect stamps might want to supply some for display and discussion. Who or what is pictured on U.S. stamps? How do the subjects of stamps get selected? Are there people or events that students think should be commemorated on future stamps? Some students might want to research how mail was paid for before there were stamps. (The first American stamp was in 1847).



Harold Anderson, left, joins Jose Ferrer, right, chairman of the Kwanzaa Holiday Foundation, to unveil the new Kwanzaa postage stamp at the Shomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, New York, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 1997. Ferrer, who is from the Bronx borough of New York, led efforts to create the stamp and says "this will make America acknowledge the importance of this great celebration and the affirmation of our culture." The commemorative Holiday Celebration stamp series pays tribute to the African-American family and community.

The rights of the individual vs. the authority of the government has been debated throughout this nation's history. This debate has included the rights of a culture to practice its traditional rituals in the face of governmental sanction. For example, the United States government and other institutions have not sanctioned all Native American rituals. This photo illustrates **Native Americans** using peyote, an illegal substance derived from a type of mushroom, in religious ceremonies. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, but what should happen if a religion prescribes actions that are against the laws of the state or nation? For example, what has happened to workers who refused to work on their sabbath or what about people who will only swear allegiance to their God and not to the state? One good case to examine might be *Barnett v. West Virginia*, a case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1943 when certain students would not say the Pledge of Allegiance in school.



Members of the Native American Church prepare for a prayer meeting in Mirando City, Texas on Feb. 17, 1996. Native Americans have made this holy pilgrimage an annual, mid-February trip for many seeking spiritual renewal in South Texas brush country. The ceremonies involve the use of peyote, a sacred plant for members of the church.

The civic responsibilities of citizenship have created much controversy and debate, especially when the issue of war comes to the forefront. The role of the citizen can take many forms and this has created questions from various political positions. Photos of **World War II** war memorials, the recognition of veterans and draft protesters highlight this site. Students will be able to formulate historical questions and hypotheses about the political causes of war and its inherent effects on political and social life. Pictured here are some American mothers protesting military conscription in 1940. What is conscription? Is it still the law? How can this protest be seen as protected by the **First Amendment**? What limits can or should there be to what can be interpreted as "free speech"?



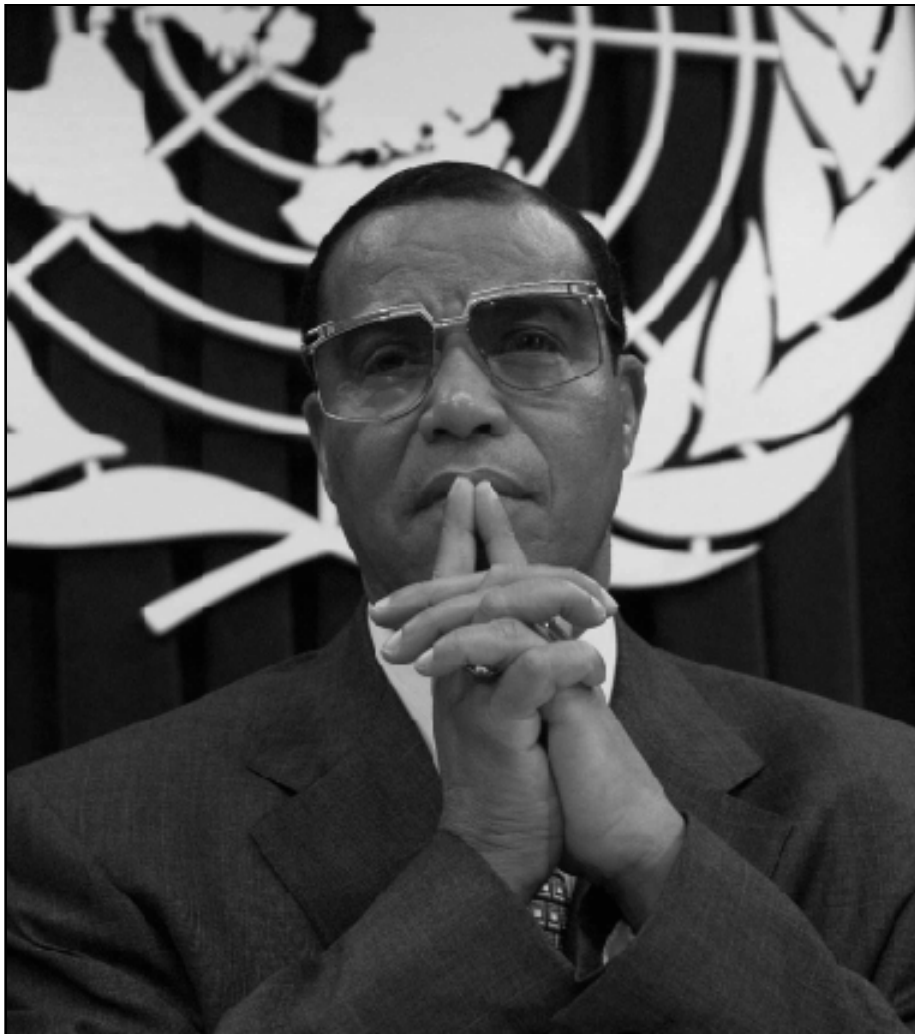
Carrying placards and with one of their number attired as a skeleton, these women, who said they hail from Cincinnati, OH, demonstrated against the compulsory military training bill, August 30, 1940, on Capitol Hill. Shown in front of the Supreme Court building, they identified themselves as American mothers protesting conscription and said they were unaffiliated.

Standard 3 in Civics and Government submits the question "What is the place of law in the American constitutional system?" **Graffiti artists** use their art form as a means of communication and as a demonstration of rebellion against established institutions of authority. This and other forms of conflict have been resolved either by punishing the "offenders" or by using creative compromises such as commissioning the artists to create wall murals. What is the difference between free speech, vandalism and art? Who makes such a decision? Can the definition change? Does the Latin expression, *De gustibus non est disputandum* (Concerning tastes there is no disputing) have any relevance to this type of



A pedestrian walks past a graffiti-painted gate in South Philadelphia, Wednesday, May 8, 1996. The national paint industry discussion² offered Philadelphia thousands of dollars in cleanup equipment to keep spray paint legal, as a proposed ban on spray paint was debated in City Council Wednesday. If the measure passes, Philadelphia will follow Chicago as the second U.S. city to outlaw graffiti artists' primary tool.

The foreign policy of a nation is to be determined by the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. These branches rely upon the expertise of hundreds of individuals before making any decisions. This photo of Nation of Islam Minister, **Louis Farrakhan**, raises the issue of American citizens working for and representing the interests of a foreign country. Many American citizens represent the interests of foreign countries. What limits should there be on their roles? Should they be required to register with the government as representatives of foreign powers? Why? What about representing countries with which the U.S. has no official diplomatic relations such as Iraq or Cuba? Why do countries opt to break diplomatic relations with other nations? Are there other ways to achieve the same ends?



Leader of the Nation of Islam, Louis Farrakhan, addresses a news conference at the United Nations Wednesday, March 4, 1998. The event was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Libya to the U.N. Farrakhan said any unilateral bombing of Iraq would mean the United States and Britain were outlaw states that did not deserve to be in the United Nations. The Nation of Islam leader also called for the lifting of sanctions against Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Cuba saying, The characterizing of nations as rogue states...is not the way to peace. Farrakhan recently returned from a 37-nation world friendship tour that included stops in those countries.

Supreme Court decisions can have far-reaching impacts on the lives of the American worker and his/her economic rights. This photo depicts workers on the production line at a packinghouse as they sort black amber plums. The United States Supreme Court issued a ruling on marketing orders which governs the advertising and promotion of tree fruit. Various growers and packers had brought a lawsuit hoping to change the government-sanctioned controls over growers/packers to one of a free market system. The U.S. Supreme Court is the only one specifically mentioned in the Constitution though "inferior courts" can be ""ordained and established" by Congress. Are there too many courts? Are there too few? How can this be determined? How many cases does the U.S. Supreme Court hear every term? How many did it hear fifty or one hundred years ago? Are there alternatives to bringing cases to court?



Workers on the production line at Gerawan Farms packing house Wednesday, June 25, 1997, in Reedley, Calif., sort black amber plums for packing. The Supreme Court issued a ruling on marketing orders which govern the advertising and promotion of tree fruit. A lawsuit that various growers and packers have had for 10 years was struck down by the court. They were hoping to change the government-sanctioned controls over growers/packers to one of a free market system.

The status of **refugees** in the United States has been the focus of an on-going debate for decades. Cindy Martinez, detained for over a year, protested the government's reluctance to issue green cards to Nicaraguan refugees. What is a "green card?" What reason would the U.S. government have for issuing such a card or denying its issuance? What can a non-citizen do to further his/her plea for a green card? What restrictions does the U.S. government place on resident aliens? Are they fair? How do these restrictions compare with those placed on resident aliens in other countries? Students might contact some foreign missions in the United States and find out about their policies to resident aliens and report their findings to the class.



Nicaraguan refugee Cindy Martinez thanks House Speaker Newt Gingrich during a rally by Nicaraguan nationals in Miami Friday Nov. 21, 1997. Martinez thanked Gingrich for pushing legislation that released her from a detention center where she had been kept for a year awaiting deportation. To the right is Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

The Fifth Amendment of the Constitution defines the government's right of **eminent domain** - the power of government to take private property for public use. Here Lance Barnett, a victim of the use of eminent domain by the government to allow a private pipeline to be built across his property, feeds cattle on his farm. What is eminent domain? How did it come about, historically? Is the law of eminent domain exercised equitably? Should there be limits to how eminent domain should be applied? What should those limits be?



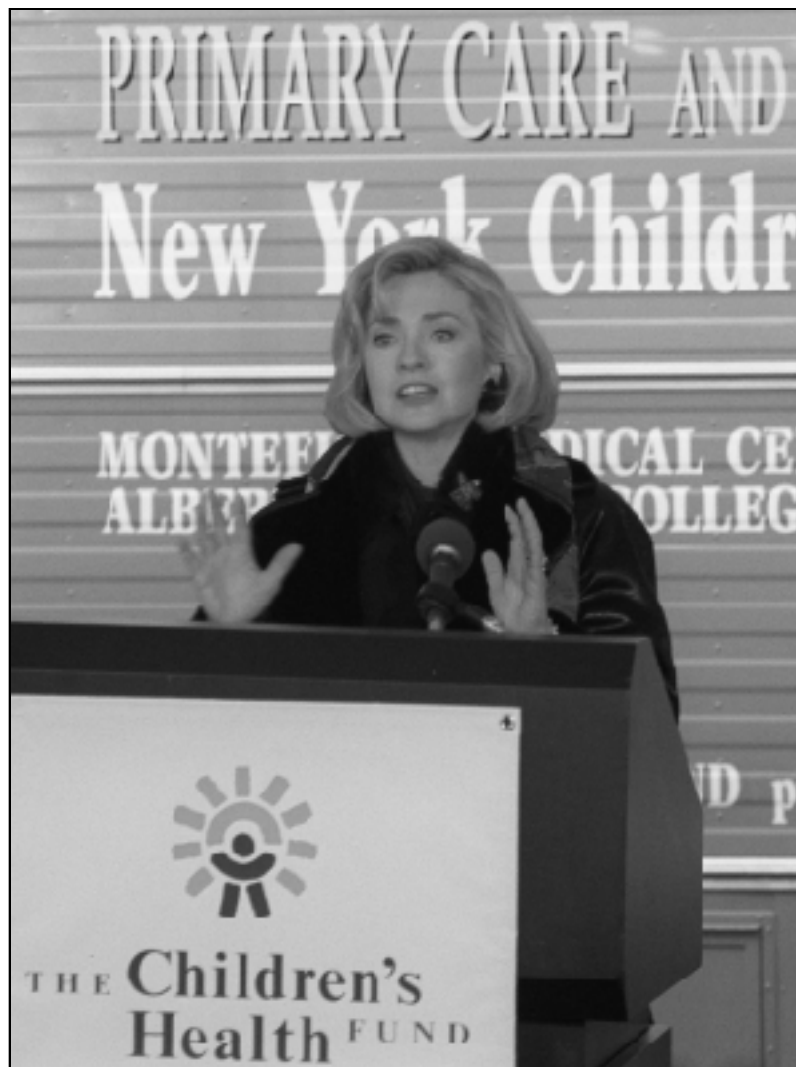
Lance Barnett, shown here on Nov. 14, 1997, feeding cattle on his farm in Jasper, Tenn., has owned 110 acres of land in Marion County, Tenn., for almost 100 years. Barnett is against the privately-owned U.S. Gypsum Corp. getting eminent domain power from the federal government to run a natural gas pipeline through his cattle farm. More than 50 people will have their land taken for the pipeline near the Tennessee-Alabama border.

Citizen action may take the form of an individual conducting a protest against the government. With the White House in the background, Sister **Dianna Ortiz**, who says Guatemalan military personnel tortured her, conducts her daily vigil until the federal government resolves her case. How can the rights and interests of United States citizens be protected in other nations? If American citizens violate laws abroad that are not crimes in the United States, should they still be found guilty? Should foreign visitors be held responsible for obeying American laws that don't apply in their countries? What about diplomatic immunity - what is it and should there be limits to its application?



With the White House in the background, Sister Dianna Ortiz conducts her daily vigil across the street in Lafayette Park Friday, April 5, 1996. Ortiz, who says she was tortured by Guatemalan military personnel, said Friday that first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton promised efforts to have U.S. government documents on her case released soon.

This photograph illustrates one of the roles of the First Lady as **Hillary Rodham Clinton** gives a speech in the Bronx, NY on health care. Most of the first ladies in the past 75 years have been prominently active in particular causes. What should be the role of the **First Lady**? Should she be a major player in the formulation of public policy or a spokesperson for the positions held by her husband? Should she take an active role in partisan campaigns? Would the perception of the role of the president's spouse be different if the president was a woman and there was a First Gentleman?



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton gestures during her speech Thursday, Dec. 11, 1997 in the Bronx borough of New York. A day after President Clinton admired a South Bronx block that's considered a model for positive change, Hillary Rodham Clinton visited an adjoining neighborhood that is called "the epicenter of a children's asthma epidemic." Mrs. Clinton helped inaugurate a program for inner-city and homeless children who have little access to health care.

On various occasions, the **Vice President** is expected to serve in functions that represent the country and the administration. Here Vice-President Al Gore meets with former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow in July of 1996. The duties of the Vice President are not spelled out in the Constitution. In fact, originally the candidate for president who finished second was to become vice-president. (See Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution) Clearly there was a different view of the electoral process then than that which we hold today. What should be the role of the Vice President? Should that be determined by each new president, each new vice-president, congress or some other governmental body? Students might be asked to research and compare the power and influence of various vice presidents over the past 50 years.



Vice-President Al Gore shakes hands with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin during a session of Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission in Moscow Monday, July 15, 1996. President Boris Yeltsin cancelled a planned meeting Monday with Gore and has gone on vacation to a health resort for two weeks, a presidential spokesman said. Aides said he likely would meet with Gore there Tuesday.

Various associations and institutions have left indelible imprints upon the history of American politics. Groups such as the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference**, shown in this photo of the Poor People's Campaign in 1968, have served to keep important issues in the forefront of the thoughts of the American public. How have various groups managed to gain the public's interest in their causes? What has been the media's role in such endeavors?



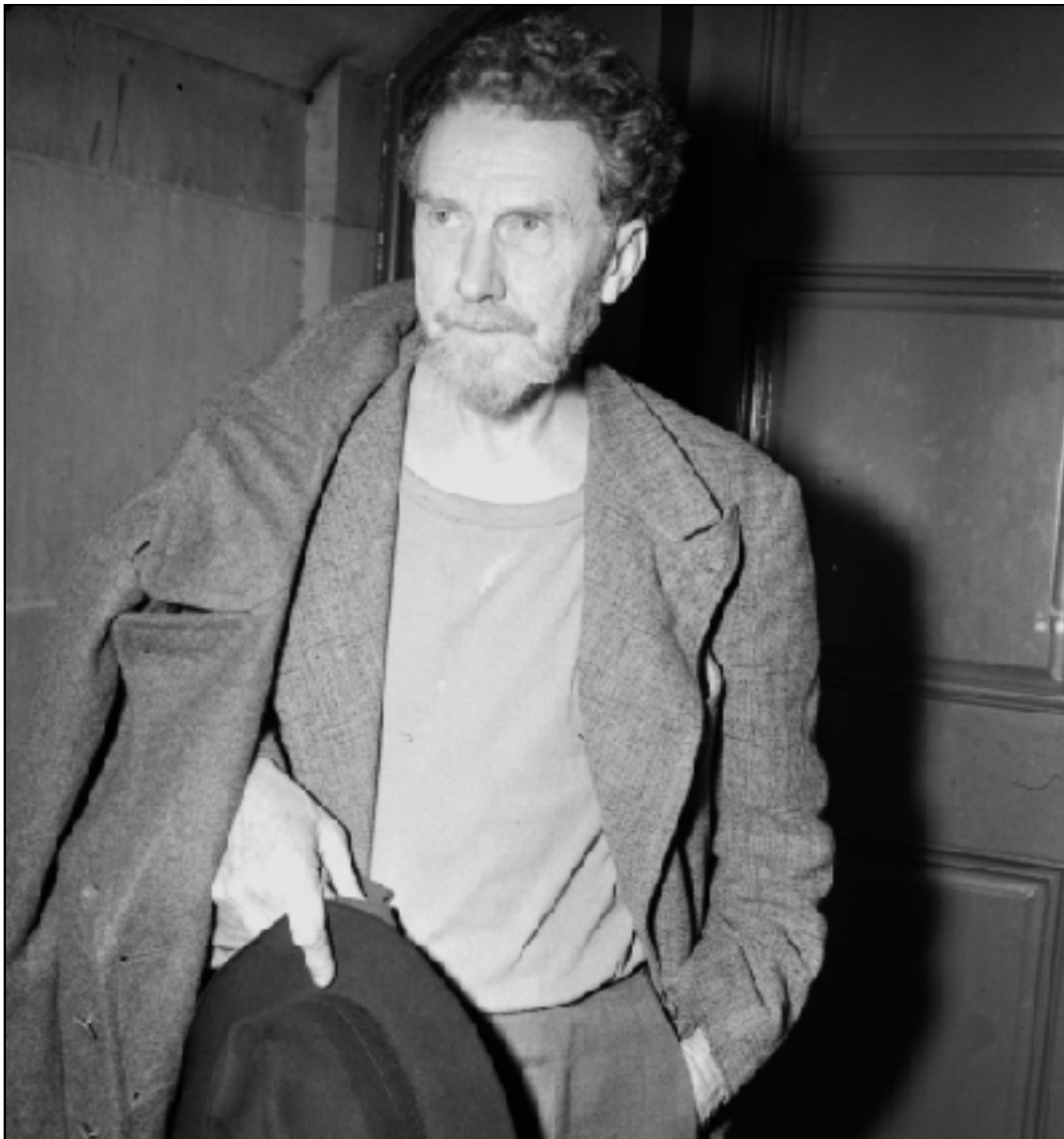
The mule train of the Poor People's Campaign, made up of 11 wagons, crosses Pennsylvania Avenue as it makes its way up 14th Street in downtown Washington, DC, June 25, 1968, after leaving its camp on the Virginia side of the Potomac River. Motorcycle police accompany the train, en route to the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference at 14th and U Streets N.W.

The lure of United States citizenship continues to draw immigrants from many different venues. Here **immigrants** awaiting entry into the United States are shown on **Ellis Island** shortly before World War I. Probing questions that might be discussed are: Should the federal government continue its present course with respect to immigration policy? What are the social, political and economic implications of this policy? How has American immigration policy changed over the past 100 years? The most recent revision of American immigration policy, the Immigration and Reform and Control Act (IRCA) was passed in two parts in the 1990s. What has been the effect of these changes? The United States is one of the few nations that has had such a relatively "open door" policy regarding immigration. What are some other nations that have accepted large numbers of immigrants? Why would countries choose to accept or not accept large numbers of immigrants?



Ellis Island in New York Bay may be closed down soon by the government, after half a century of service as the gateway to the United States for more than 16,000,000 immigrants. Its busiest years were just before the first World War when the island received as many as 790,000 a year. This picture, taken at that time, shows immigrants having lunch at Ellis Island.

One way in which citizenship can be forfeited is through the process of expatriation. **Ezra Pound**, an American expatriate poet, appears for his preliminary arraignment in a district court, in November 1945. Pound was indicted for treason resulting from wartime broadcasts from Rome, Italy. What is expatriation and how does one become an official expatriate? Can one reverse the process?



Bearded Ezra Pound, American expatriate poet, appears tired and disheveled following his preliminary arraignment in district court, Washington, D.C., November 19, 1945. Indicted for treason resulting from war-time broadcasts from Rome, Italy, Pound was taken to the district jail. He flew in from Europe November 18.

Political freedoms are a cornerstone of our **First Amendment** rights. Sometimes individuals will find themselves at the center of controversy over their political stance. Former Denver Nuggets guard **Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf** is shown in December 1992 in a Denver mosque. The National Basketball Association found itself at the center of a controversy encompassing basketball, religion and freedom of speech, as Abdul-Rauf held firm in his religious beliefs in refusing to stand for the national anthem. Can impositions on religious freedom be held as conditions of employment? What rights should employers have in this regard? To what extent are professional athletes "role models" that can be held to a higher standard of employment than the average worker?



Denver Nuggets guard Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf is shown in December 1992 in a Denver mosque. The NBA on Wednesday, March 13, 1996, found itself at the center of a controversy encompassing basketball, religion and freedom of speech, as Abdul-Rauf held firm in his religious beliefs in refusing to stand for the national anthem. The NBA has suspended him indefinitely without pay.

The issue of **school prayer** and the role of religion in the schools has been a major source of debate during the last decade. The **Pontotoc County** Mississippi schools were the focal point of an organized effort by the Pontotoc County Citizens for School Prayer to raise funds to overturn a U.S. District judge's decision to hold Bible classes on school grounds. Should organized prayer be allowed in the classroom? What about holding classes before or after school but in a classroom? What should be done to protect the rights and feelings of students who may not practice the dominant religion(s) in a school?



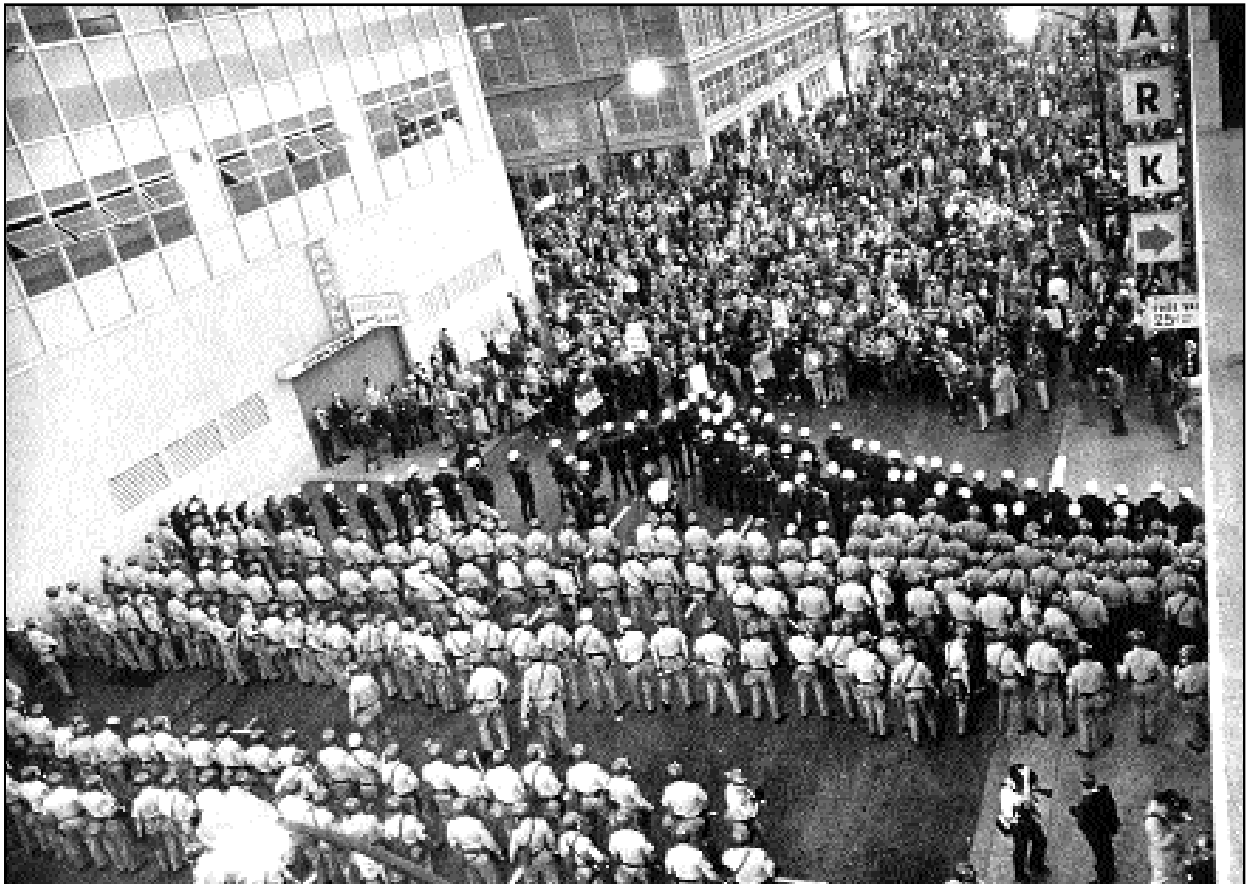
William J. "Bill" Murray, the son of atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair, speaks to an estimated crowd of 3,500, Sunday, Oct. 22, 1995, during a combined church service at the Pontotoc, Miss., County Courthouse. Murray urged the school prayer supporters to donate money for the Pontotoc County School systems legal fight.

The multi **political party** system was intended to wield power and influence public policy. This system would also permit a wide spectrum of ideologies from conservative to liberal. Many photos in this site were taken from the 1996 presidential campaign and conventions. One photo is of a drawing of the Philadelphia Music Fund Hall where in June 1856 the Republican Party nominated **John Fremont**. This was the beginning of the Republican Party. How many parties are there in the United States? How does a party get its candidates listed on the ballot? The Constitution makes no mention of political parties; how did they originate?



This is a drawing depicting the scene outside of Philadelphia's Music Fund Hall, where the Republican Party held its first convention on June 17, 1856. The Republican party nominated Gen. John Fremont, a Mexican War veteran.

Decisions made by the United States Supreme Court have led to significant changes in social policy. Such changes can, in turn, create **protest** from special interest groups whose civic responsibility is to stand up for those individuals whose lives may be forever impacted by the decision. Shown is a draft protest demonstration in 1967. When does a peaceful protest become a threat to public safety? Does the phalanx of police in the photo seem ready to protect the demonstrators' rights to protest or to challenge them? Students might discuss which side the public, in general, should favor and why. Should the police have the right to deny public protest? Under what circumstances?



Protesters meet a wall of police in front of the Clay Street induction center in Oakland, Calif., in this Oct. 21, 1967, Oakland Tribune file photo. Protesters were trying to stop the draft, and the VietNam war. The protest turned violent that day, as police used mace for the first time.

Students must be able to understand policy positions taken by the United States in relation to world events such as **human rights** issues. These could be in the form of domestic violence, war crimes, treatment of political refugees, political hit squads, land mine policy and abortion. This photo depicts Chinese dissident, **Harry Wu**, speaking at a press conference on Capitol Hill. What are human rights? Are they the same in all countries? Who should determine what are basic rights for all people on the planet? How can basic human rights be assured for all in this country? How can basic human rights be assured for those in other countries? What might it cost, in dollars, to assure each person of all of his/her human rights?



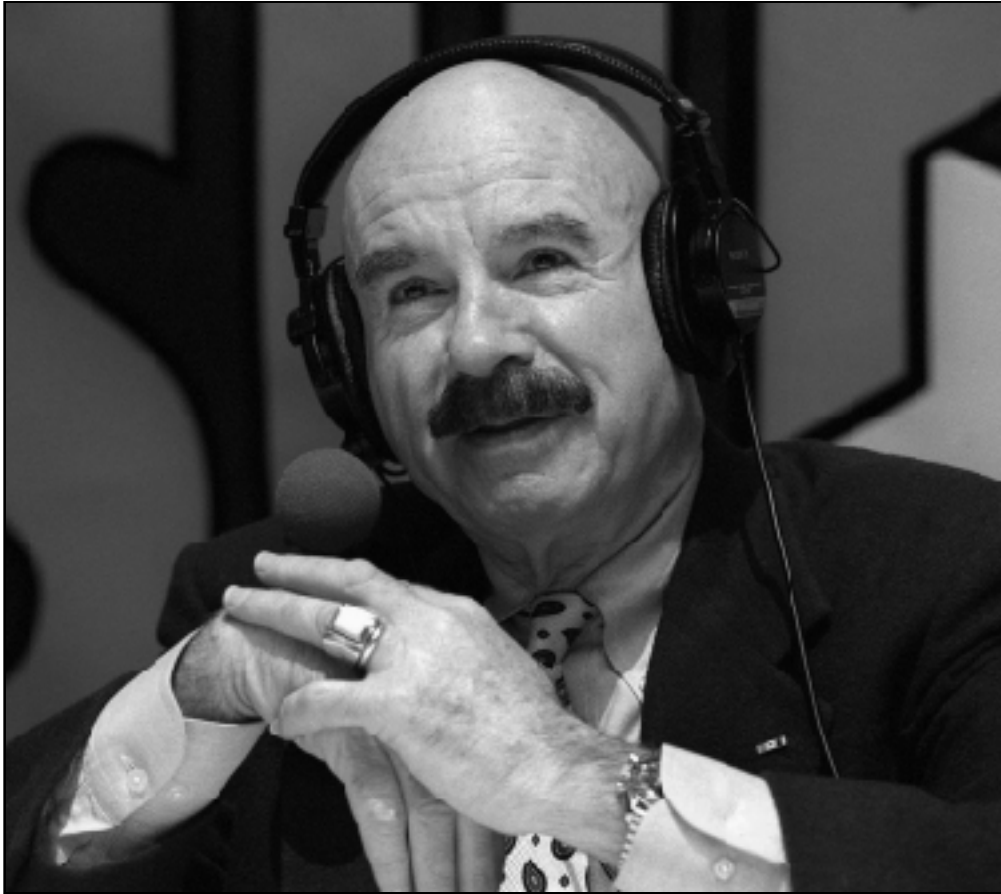
Chinese dissident, Harry Wu, center, flanked by Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., left, and Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J. meets reporters on Capitol Hill Tuesday, June 23, 1998 to discuss President Clinton's upcoming trip to China. The bipartisan group raised concerns of China's human rights and basic democratic freedoms policies.

What is the role of the media in communicating the day-to-day events occurring in our nation's capital? C-SPAN has attempted to provide unbiased coverage of political events. Its daily coverage of the House of Representative and the Senate affords viewers the opportunity to watch and listen to their representatives in action. This photo depicts former President **Ronald Reagan** making a funny face in 1986. Since it is not clear that he realized that he was on television, should there be limitations to what C-SPAN can show of the government's workings? Should broadcasters be required to tell legislators and government officials when they are "on the air"? Do government officials have any right to privacy?



President Ronald Reagan, appearing at the White House News Photographers Association's annual dinner in Washington, Wednesday, May 19, 1986, placed his thumbs to his ears and wiggled his fingers at the photographers saying, I've been waiting for years to do this. It was not immediately clear if the President knew the funny face was being carried live by C-Span, a cable television service that provides coverage of Washington events.

The growth of **radio talk shows** has increased the national appetite for information and commentary on political and social events. More citizens are now turning to and calling in to these programs to voice their opinions on a wide range of political issues. **G. Gordon Liddy**, a nationally syndicated conservative talk show host, and former Watergate participant, is just one example of the rising popularity of the political talk show format. Should the Federal Communications Commission in any way regulate the talk show format? Is there any standard of truth to which talk radio shows should be held?



G. Gordon Liddy is shown during a live broadcast of his radio talkshow on Thursday, February 19, 1998, at the Holiday Inn in Mundy Township, Mich. More than 400 people turned up this week for the first of two live broadcasts of Liddy's radio show. Gov. John Engler was on Liddy's guest list, and two waitresses from Hooters showed up at Thursday's show with a bucket full of chicken wings.

The federal government uses fiscal and monetary policies to create a stable economic system. However, the **national debt** has continued to increase over the last 35 years. This photo shows politicians speaking before a national debt counter. The counter, which shows that the national debt currently increases 8,900 dollars a second, was on a countrywide tour to show Americans the rising cost of the national debt. During President Clinton's presidency, the U.S. government budget was balanced for the first time in over 20 years. What does this mean? Why does the United States continue to have such a high national debt? Do other countries have large debts? How do they deal with such debts? To whom does the U.S. government owe most of its debt? Why don't the creditors press for payment?



House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Ga., left, and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kan., sit behind a national debt clock during a meeting of the Republican Joint Budget Steering Committee, Thursday, Oct. 26, 1995, on Capitol Hill. The House and Senate are bracing for their first votes on milestone Republican budget-balancing plans, as leaders of the two chambers continue cutting deals to solidify their expected victory margins.

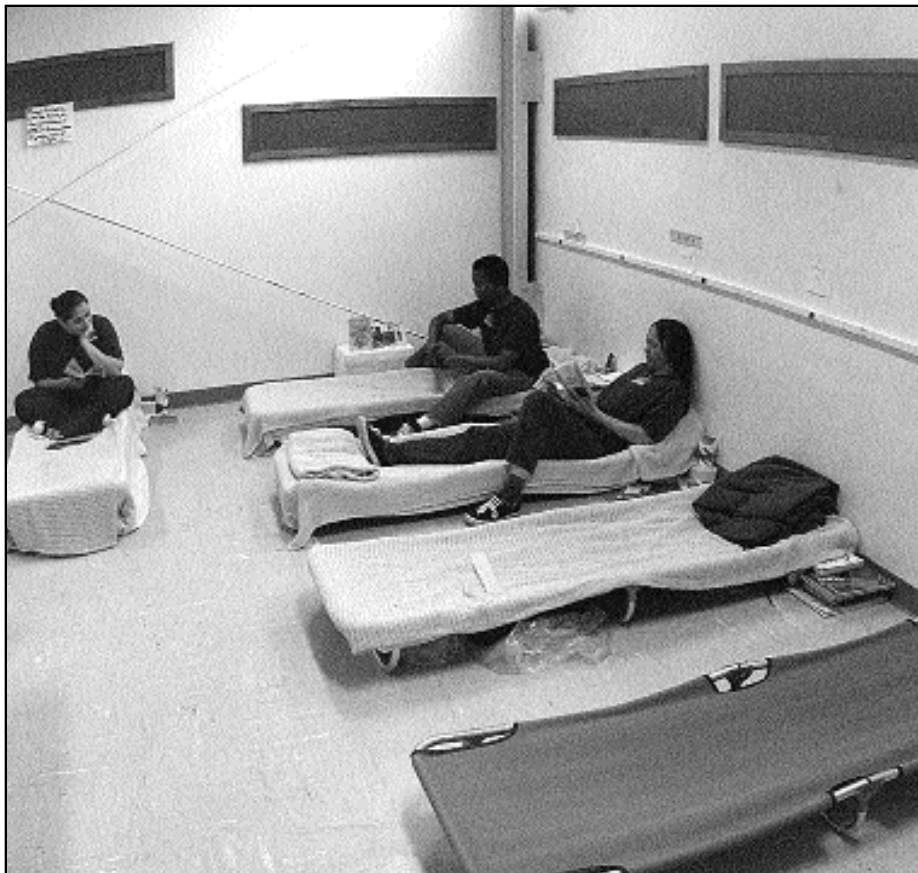
The computer generation owes much of its growth to Microsoft CEO **Bill Gates** for developing software and hardware that has taken computer technology to new heights. On the other hand, a group of consumer advocates, led by **Ralph Nader**, shown here, addresses the concerns of those who believe that corporations like Microsoft have become monopolies that are out of control. For more than 30 years, Nader has labored for the American consumer, bringing law suits and information forward in the **public interest**. The photo depicts one instance in which Nader was horribly wrong. His campaign for automobile air bags, although generally on target, led to new dangers for small children riding in front seats when air bags engaged.

Who should regulate American industries and products? Why can't the industries themselves do the job? Why can't the government do a better job of inspecting and regulating industries such as the meat industry? Students could research the history of government regulation beginning with the muckrakers of the early 20th century like Upton Sinclair, Jacob Riis and Lincoln Steffens. How has regulation changed over the past 85 years?



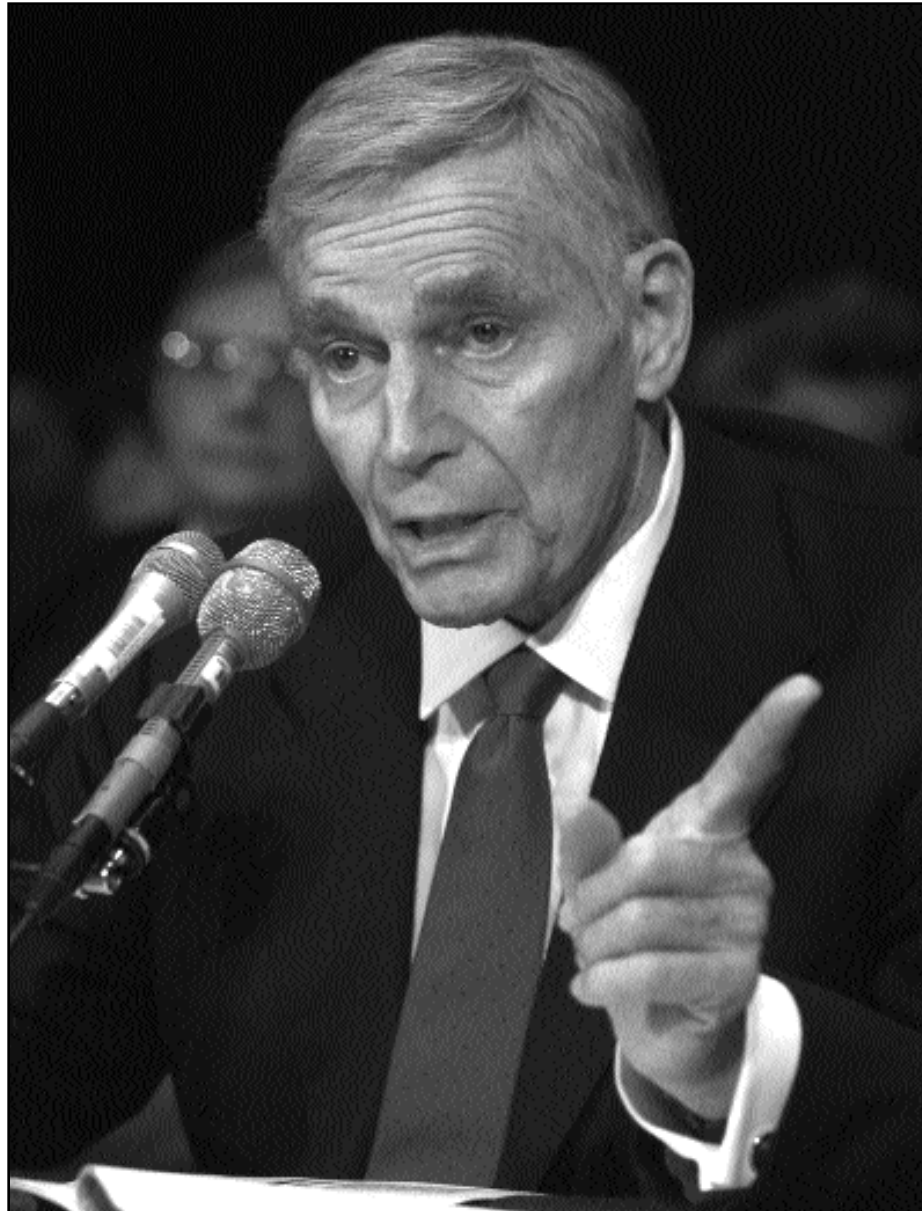
Three-year-old Shelby Sutcliffe reacts as an air bag pops from steering wheel of a simulator during a press conference in Washington July 5, 1977. Conference was held to demonstrate safety of the restrain device. Standing over the young girl is consumer advocate Ralph Nader, a participant in the briefing. Shelby is the daughter of Lynn Sutcliffe, Counsel to the National Committee for Auto Crash Protection.

One of the most difficult questions that any government faces is how to punish offenders who violate the laws of society. Some groups promote more rehabilitation but many conservative groups feel that more **prisons**, often run by private firms for profit, and lengthier prison terms are the answer. This has led to a building boom in prisons, but the demand has outstripped the supply. Here inmates in an overcrowded women's prison are shown. What should be the goal or goals of punishment and which path is most effective? Students might research the functions of rehabilitation, deterrence and vengeance in the penal system.



Inmates at Oregon Women's Correctional Center, from left, Catina Robertson, Tamara Tillman and Glenda Williams spend free time on their cots in the dormitory in Salem, Ore., Wednesday, June 24, 1998. Oregon prisons are packed and corrections officials are sending criminals to private lockups in other states.

Special interest groups exist to try and further a particular agenda and represent a large body of people that may favor such an agenda. These groups are not mentioned anywhere in the Constitution, but they have emerged as important parties in the development and furtherance of much legislation. Here, Charlton Heston, the president of one prominent group, the **National Rifle Association (NRA)** expresses his disdain for gun control legislation that was proposed in Oregon. The NRA promotes a strict interpretation of the Second Amendment of the Constitution that expresses "the right to bear arms"



National Rifle Association president, actor Charlton Heston, testifies on Capitol Hill Wednesday, September 23, 1998 before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on gun control.