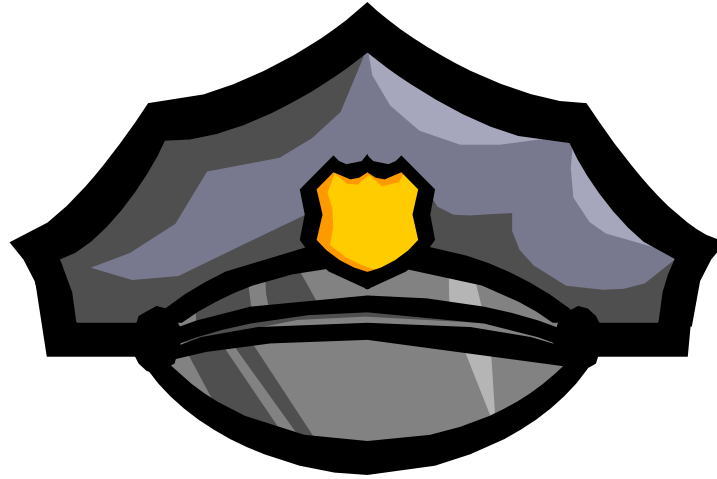


THE PRESIDENTIAL HATS:

Chief Legislator



The Chief Legislator wears a policeman's hat.

These eight-point hats are worn by the New York City Police Department; the eight points stand for the eight members of their original watch.

Talking to Lawmakers

Although the President does not have the power to pass laws, he can suggest laws to Congress. He can also work with individual Congressmen and Congresswomen to get their help and support to pass the bills that he has suggested.

Picture:

President Lyndon B. Johnson talking on the phone in the Oval Office, November 29, 1963.

To hear President Johnson speaking to New Jersey Congressman Frank “Topper” Thompson, click the icon below. The President congratulates Thompson on the passage of recent tax and civil rights bills and is asking for Thompson’s help on his medical care proposals.





Talking to Lawmakers

On June 1, 1981, President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George H.W. Bush met with House Speaker Tip O'Neill to discuss the Tax Bill. President Reagan and Vice President Bush were both Republicans while Speaker O'Neill was a liberal Democrat. When members from both parties work together, it is called bipartisanship.



Signing Legislation

The President is given the power to approve or veto laws that are passed by Congress.

Picture:

President William J. Clinton signing House Resolution (H.R.) 2254, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 on the South Lawn of the White House while Vice President Al Gore looks on.



Signing Legislation

Picture:

President George W. Bush signed the U.S.A. Patriot Act in the East Room of the White House on October 26, 2001. Standing behind the President from are U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and a bipartisan group of members of Congress. The act was signed as a response to the September 11, 2001 attacks.

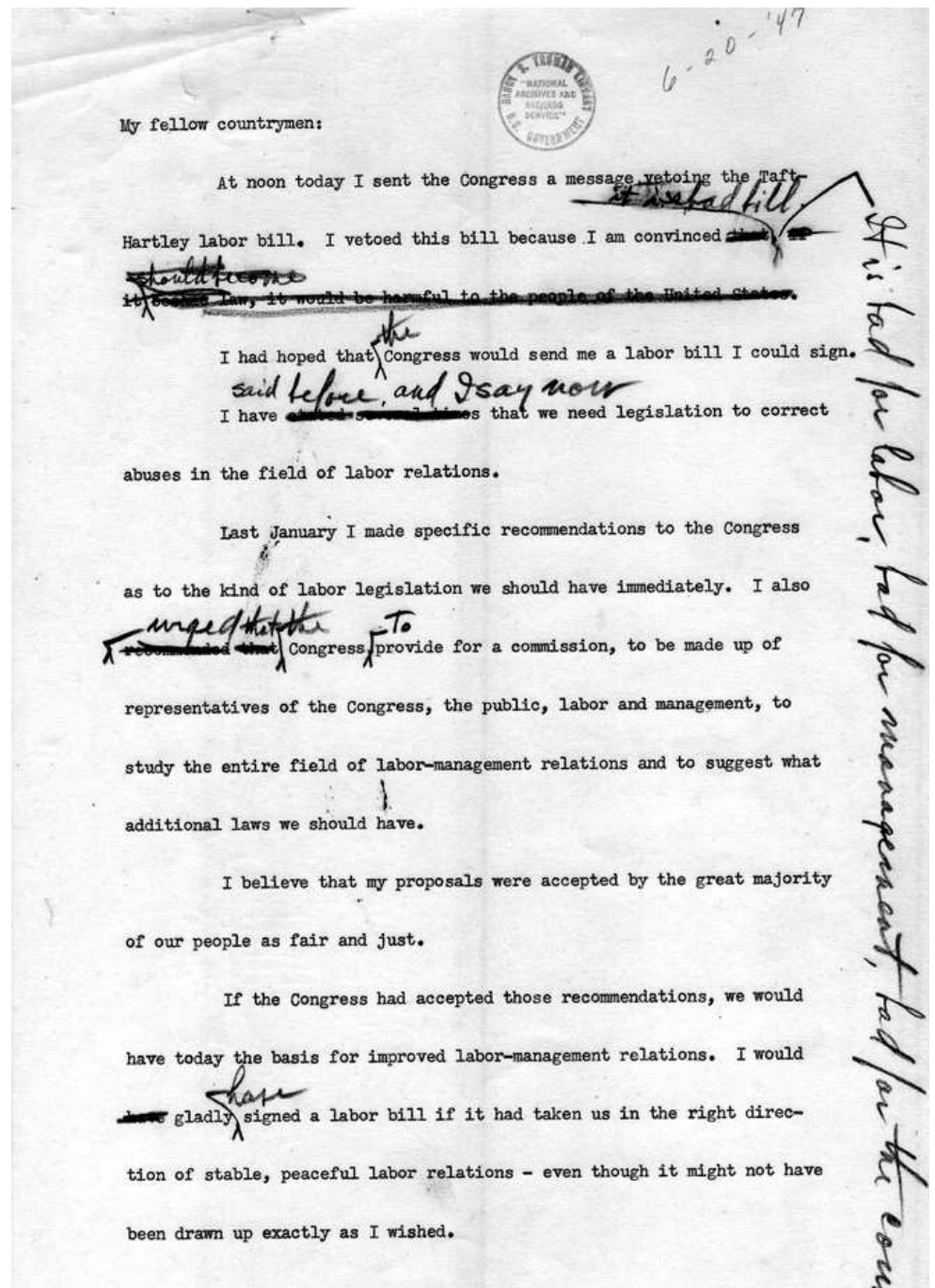
Vetoing Legislation

When a President does not agree with Legislation, he can refuse to sign it. This is called a veto. When a bill is vetoed, the President returns it to Congress with a message letting them know why he vetoed it.

Even if a President vetoes a bill, it can still be passed if a two-thirds majority of both houses in Congress pass it.

Document:

Draft of President Harry S. Truman's speech to Congress about his decision to veto the Taft-Hartley Bill.





Vetoing Legislation

President George W. Bush vetoed the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007" on June 20, 2007.

In his speech, President Bush said making "American taxpayers support the deliberate destruction of human embryos would be a grave mistake. I will not allow our Nation to cross this moral line. For that reason, I must veto this bill."

President Bush used this pen, pictured above, to sign the veto.



Signing Pens

Did you know that when a President signs a bill into a law, sometimes he will use more than one pen? He does this so that pens can be given as souvenirs to people who helped write or pass the bill.

Picture:

President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Immigration Act on October 3, 1965. Notice there are a few pens above his hand on the table.

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or intimation to be published or given out until its READING has been begun in the Senate or House of Representatives. While the Message is dated TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1929, some contingency may arise to prevent its delivery to the Houses of Congress on that date, and extreme care must therefore be exercised to avoid premature publication.

GEORGE E. AKERSON,
Secretary to the President.

MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES

COMMUNICATED TO THE
TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE
SEVENTY-FIRST CONGRESS

1929 - 16 April



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1929

MESSAGE



To the Congress of the United States:

I have called this special session of Congress to redeem two pledges given in the last election—farm relief and limited changes in the tariff.

The difficulties of the agricultural industry arise out of a multitude of causes. A heavy indebtedness was inherited by the industry from the deflation processes of 1920. Disorderly and wasteful methods of marketing have developed. The growing specialization in the industry has for years been increasing the proportion of products that now leave the farm and, in consequence, prices have been unduly depressed by congested marketing at the harvest or by the occasional climatic surpluses. Railway rates have necessarily increased. There has been a growth of competition in the world markets from countries that enjoy cheaper labor or more nearly virgin soils. There was a great expansion of production from our marginal lands during the war; and upon these, profitable enterprise under normal conditions can not be maintained. Meanwhile their continued output tends to aggravate the situation. Local taxes have doubled and in some cases trebled. Work animals have been steadily replaced by mechanical appliances, thereby decreasing the consumption of farm products. There are many other contributing causes.

The general result has been that our agricultural industry has not kept pace in prosperity or standards of living with other lines of industry.

There being no disagreement as to the need of farm relief, the problem before us becomes one of method by which relief may be most successfully brought about. Because of the multitude of causes and because agriculture is not one industry but a score of industries, we are confronted not with a single problem alone but a great number of problems. Therefore there is no single plan or principle that can be generally applied. Some of the forces working to the detriment of agriculture can be greatly mitigated by improving our waterway transportation; some of them by readjustment of the tariff; some by better understanding and adjustment of production needs; and some by improvement in the methods of marketing.

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(1)

Calling a Special Session of Congress

Presidents have the power to call a special session of Congress to address issues that they think are important.

Document:

April 16, 1929 message from Herbert Hoover to the special session of Congress he called to address the issues of farm relief and the tariff.

Article I

- Article I of the Constitution deals with the powers of Congress.
 - Section 7 is about the process of passing laws and the Presidential Veto.
- In Article I, Section 7, the President is given the power to review all laws passed by Congress:
 - Once a bill passes the House of Representatives and the Senate, “before it [can] become a Law, [it must] be presented to the President of the United States”
 - If the President approves the law, “he shall sign it”
 - If he does not approve the law, he must “return it, with his objections” to the house where it originated (this is the veto)

Article II

- Article II, Section 3 of the United States Constitution establishes the duties of the President.
- In Article II, Section 3, the President is given the following duties:
 - “He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.”