

The President's Powers

The U.S. President has one of the most important jobs in the world. It is like working seven jobs at once. Some of the President's powers, or roles, are listed in the U.S. Constitution. Other powers are a result of U.S.

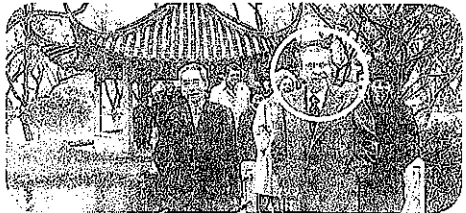
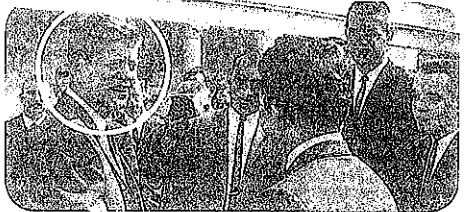
laws, court decisions, or actions of earlier Presidents. See if you can match each of the President's jobs, described below at left, with a real President's actions, listed below in the column at right.

Write the letter of each action on the line in front of the matching job.

Jobs of the President

- ___ 1. **Chief Executive.** The President enforces U.S. laws, creates policies, hires and fires officials within the executive branch, and appoints federal (national) judges. Congress must approve many appointments, including Cabinet secretaries and Supreme Court Justices.
- ___ 2. **Commander in Chief.** The Constitution makes the President head of the nation's military forces. Only Congress can declare war, but recent Presidents have sent troops into combat without a formal declaration.
- ___ 3. **Head of state.** The President is a living symbol of the U.S. This job includes mostly ceremonial duties, such as welcoming foreign leaders, congratulating famous Americans, and promoting U.S. traditions.
- ___ 4. **Director of foreign policy.** The Constitution says that ~~only the President can make treaties with other countries~~ (although the Senate must approve them). The President, working with the Secretary of State, shapes policies for dealing with other countries.
- ___ 5. **Legislative leader.** Only Congress can pass legislation. But the Constitution gives the President the power to sign acts of Congress into law or to veto (reject) any bill. Congress can override the veto by a two-thirds majority vote of both the House and Senate.
- ___ 6. **Head of political party.** The President is head of his political party. He uses his influence to back party candidates and raise money for House and Senate campaigns.
- ___ 7. **Economic guardian.** The President is expected to keep the U.S. economy running. He plans the federal government's budget, which Congress modifies and sends back to the President for approval. The President also appoints the head of the Federal Reserve, which controls the amount of money circulating in the U.S. economy.

Presidential Actions

- A. President Richard M. Nixon *(below)* visits China to improve relations with that country.
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- B. President Bill Clinton balances the federal budget.
 - C. President Ronald Reagan campaigns for fellow Republicans running for Congress.
 - D. President George H. W. Bush entertains the Queen of England at the White House.
 - E. President John F. Kennedy *(below)* issues an Executive Order to launch the Peace Corps.
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- F. President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
 - G. President George W. Bush assigns General David H. Petraeus to command U.S. troops in Iraq.