

THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The two-hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, September 17, 1987, highlighted the formal beginning of the five-year Bicentennial of the national government. In this "history and civics lesson" for the American people, each year through 1991 will emphasize a particular theme corresponding to the events of 200 years ago.

Following upon the 1987 celebrations of the drafting and signing of our nation's Charter, Americans commemorated in 1988 the critical struggle for ratification and our first federal elections.

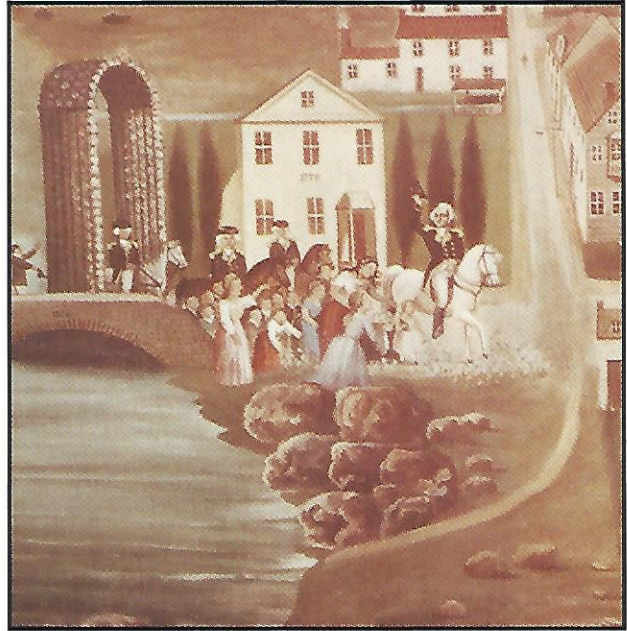
Throughout the next two years, the celebration will examine the Constitution at work in the establishment of the three branches of the federal government. The 1989 celebration highlights the legislative and executive branches, with commemorative programs and activities recalling important dates and accomplishments of 1789, when this bold experiment in constitutional government began. In 1990 the spotlight will be on the establishment of the federal judiciary. The ratification of the Bill of Rights and subsequent Amendments will be the subject of 1990-91 activities.

"The Constitution does not solve our problems. It allows people freedom and opportunity to solve their own problems; It provides for representatives of the people to help solve problems; It provides an executive to enforce the laws and administer the government; It provides a judicial branch to say what the law means; From there on it is up to the people."

*Warren E. Burger, Chairman of the Commission
Chief Justice of the United States (1969-1986)*

PLANS FOR 1989

- During 1989, an important focus of the commemoration will be on New York City, where the government was established in 1789. A major national event will be the reenactment of



President-elect George Washington's journey from Mount Vernon, Virginia — through Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey — to New York. Working in concert with the federal Commission, commissions from those states plan special events along the 250 mile route.

- Constitution Week, beginning with Citizenship Day on September 17, will continue to provide opportunities for commemorating and studying the Constitution.
- Two continuing Commission programs, Disabled and Ethnic Outreach, will aim at recognizing the contributions of diverse groups to the development of the Constitution and its influence on the total citizenry.

- The Commission, with the assistance of the Center for Civic Education, is sponsoring the National Historical Pictorial Map Contest and the second year of the National Bicentennial Competition on the Constitution and Bill of Rights. An essay contest for high school students, co-sponsored by the Commission and the Daughters of the American Revolution, is also underway.

- A major Commission effort will reach varied adult groups with educational materials on the history and principles of the Constitution and its application to civic responsibility.

- College Community Forums, funded by the Commission and sponsored by colleges and universities across the nation, will bring together college faculty, community leaders and citizens in public discussion of Constitution issues.

- The Commission's color catalogue of commemorative items will promote a broad awareness of Constitution themes by listing commemorative products available from manufacturers.

- The Commission will assist Project Literacy U.S. (PLUS) in a program of public service announcements and television specials on civic literacy that will result in distribution of hundreds of thousands of pocket Constitutions.

- Regional (State) Bicentennial Leadership Conferences sponsored by the Commission will continue to assist state and local leaders in planning and developing educational and commemorative programming for the Bicentennial.

- The Discretionary Grant Program will continue to support the development of programs and instructional materials on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights designed for use by elementary and secondary school students. The Commission anticipates awarding up to \$4.5 million in two rounds of competition in FY 1989.

GETTING INVOLVED

To provide a network for involvement, the Commission will direct and encourage other Constitution-awareness activities during the year with assistance from State Bicentennial Commissions, Designated Bicentennial Communities, Bicentennial Campuses and, in a new program, Bicentennial Schools across the nation. Thousands of Bicentennial committees—representing government agencies, defense installations, corporations and nonprofit associations—will also lend support in taking the Bicentennial to the people.

As an added help, the Commission operates a computerized clearinghouse of up-to-date Bicentennial information, educational resource materials and activities nationwide. The Commission's Speakers Bureau has on file more than 400 speakers-scholars from every area of the country who are available to speak to schools and colleges as well as civic and community groups.

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