

# THE POWERS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY

**4** EVERY FOUR YEARS

The President of the United States is often called "the most powerful elected official in the world." Yet all recent presidents have complained about their lack of power. The fact is that the president has quite a lot of power, but also some very real limitations.

Your teacher will display a list of some presidential powers and limitations. When you have discussed them, read each fact or incident below. Fill in the blank before each item with a P or L to show whether it describes a presidential power or limitation.

- \_\_\_ 1. Congressmen sometimes support legislation in return for campaign appearances of a popular president in their states.
- \_\_\_ 2. Increases in the price of oil by OPEC countries seriously affect inflation in the United States.
- \_\_\_ 3. During the Depression of the 1930's, Franklin Roosevelt closed the nation's banks for a week.
- \_\_\_ 4. The Supreme Court ruled that Nixon had to turn over tape recordings to the Special Prosecutor during the Watergate investigation.
- \_\_\_ 5. From 1960-1976, Congress was able to override only 17 of 153 presidential vetoes.
- \_\_\_ 6. In 1979, some members of the Senate refused to consider the Salt II treaty until Carter had dealt with the problem of Soviet troops in Cuba.
- \_\_\_ 7. Johnson made sure that urban renewal money went to the hometowns of powerful members of Congress.
- \_\_\_ 8. No president was able to conduct an all-out war in Vietnam for fear of "escalating" it into a nuclear war with the Russians.
- \_\_\_ 9. Nixon made nine prime time television addresses to defend his policies in Vietnam.
- \_\_\_ 10. In 1979, Carter's proposal for a windfall profits tax was vigorously opposed by the oil industry.
- \_\_\_ 11. Presidents rarely ask for tax increases (even if they're badly needed) during an election year.
- \_\_\_ 12. Presidents have sometimes asked the Internal Revenue Service to audit the tax returns of people who opposed them.
- \_\_\_ 13. Newspaper cartoonists often pictured Ford as clumsy.
- \_\_\_ 14. Presidents try to appoint Supreme Court justices who will support their programs.
- \_\_\_ 15. Franklin Roosevelt once said, "The Treasury is so large and far-flung and ingrained that I find it almost impossible to get the actions and results I want..."
- \_\_\_ 16. During the Vietnam war, military officials sent Johnson misleading information about the strength of the enemy.

