



# UNDERSTANDING CONGRESS: A BICENTENNIAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

*February 9-10, 1989*

Sponsored by  
the U.S. Senate Commission on the Bicentennial,  
the Commission on the Bicentenary of the  
U.S. House of Representatives, and the  
Congressional Research Service of the  
Library of Congress

This conference is made possible with generous  
contributions from the Carl Albert Center,  
The Dirksen Congressional Center, the Ford  
Foundation, the Gerald R. Ford Foundation,  
and the D. B. Hardeman Bequest in Association  
with the Lyndon Baines Johnson  
Presidential Library.

## Thursday, February 9

1:30 p.m. Welcome by The Honorable Lindy Boggs, The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, and other congressional leaders; James H. Billington, The Librarian of Congress; Joseph E. Ross, Director, Congressional Research Service; and Don W. Wilson, Archivist of the United States

Senate Caucus Room  
325 Russell Senate Office Building

Conference Chairman: Roger H. Davidson,  
University of Maryland

2:15-  
3:45 p.m. Congressional Roundtable: *What We Ought to Know About Our National Legislature*

Chair: David Broder, *The Washington Post*  
Panelists:

The Honorable Mickey Edwards  
The Honorable Wyche Fowler, Jr.  
The Honorable Paul B. Henry  
The Honorable Richard G. Lugar  
The Honorable David E. Price

Senate Caucus Room  
325 Russell Senate Office Building

3:45 p.m. Break

4:00-  
5:30 p.m. *Researching Congress: The Paradox of Sources*

Chair: James Hutson, Library of Congress  
Papers:

Anna Nelson, Tulane University  
Raymond Smock, Historian,  
U.S. House of Representatives

Commentators:

The Honorable Charles Whalen  
Joseph Cooper, Rice University  
R. Michael McReynolds, National  
Archives

Senate Caucus Room  
325 Russell Senate Office Building

6:00-  
8:00 p.m. Reception, Great Hall, Library of Congress

## Friday, February 10

9:00-  
10:30 a.m. *The Examined Life: Writing Congressional Biographies*

Chair: Richard Baker, Historian,  
U.S. Senate

Paper: Robert Caro, Biographer  
Commentators:

The Honorable Russell Long  
Richard Lowitt, Iowa State University

House Caucus Room  
345 Cannon House Office Building

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m.-  
12:15 p.m. *Separate but Equal: Two Hundred Years of Legislative-Executive-Judicial Relations*

Chair: Harold Hyman, Rice University  
Papers:

Louis Fisher, Congressional Research  
Service  
Robert Katzmann, The Brookings  
Institution

Commentator:

The Honorable James Buckley,  
U.S. Court of Appeals

House Caucus Room  
345 Cannon House Office Building

12:30-  
2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:15-  
3:00 p.m. *Keynote Address*  
*"Time and History on the Hill"*  
David McCullough, Historian

House Caucus Room  
345 Cannon House Office Building

3:00-  
4:30 p.m. *Congress in the Public Eye: Media and Public Opinion*

Chair: Walter Oleszek, Congressional  
Research Service

Papers:

Steven Roberts, *The New York Times*  
Fred L. Israel, City College of  
New York and *The Gallup Poll*

Commentators:

The Honorable Barney Frank  
Stephen Hess, The Brookings  
Institution

House Caucus Room  
345 Cannon House Office Building

4:30 p.m. Conference adjournment

WALTER J. STEWART  
SECRETARY

RICHARD A. BAKER  
HISTORIAN

DONALD A. RITCHIE  
ASSOCIATE HISTORIAN

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# United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

HISTORICAL OFFICE

## MEMORANDUM

February 2, 1989

TO: Jo-Anne Coe

FROM: Dick Baker 

RE: Welcoming Remarks for February 9 Bicentennial Research Conference.

The Senate Bicentennial Commission is co-sponsoring a two-day conference entitled: "Understanding Congress: A Bicentennial research Conference." More than 500 persons have preregistered and the conference will be broadcast on closed-circuit television and C-SPAN. Its proceedings will be published.

I have attached welcoming remarks for Senator Dole. Others expected to extend greetings include Senators Byrd and Mitchell, Speaker Wright, Lindy Boggs, and the Librarian of Congress.

The welcoming remarks will begin at 1:30 pm, on February 9, in the Senate Caucus Room.

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

BICENTENNIAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

"UNDERSTANDING CONGRESS"

IT'S A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE  
OPENING OF THIS CONFERENCE ON "UNDERSTANDING  
CONGRESS."

I WISH YOU WELL OVER THE NEXT DAY AND A HALF,  
BECAUSE EVEN THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN

MEMBERS FOR MANY YEARS CAN'T TRUTHFULLY CLAIM  
THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTAND CONGRESS. IF YOU FIND  
OUT WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT -- LET ME KNOW.

THERE'S A FAMOUS QUOTATION TO THE EFFECT  
THAT "THOSE WHO LOVE SAUSAGE AND THOSE WHO  
LOVE LEGISLATION, SHOULD NEVER ASK HOW EITHER IS  
MADE." AS YOU SEEK TO UNDERSTAND CONGRESS,  
AND HOW LEGISLATION IS ENACTED, YOU MAY FIND  
THAT IT'S NOT A PRETTY PICTURE. SOMETIMES THE

SYSTEM WORKS, SOMETIMES IT DOESN'T. SOMETIMES IT  
CAN BE GRATIFYING, SOMETIMES FRUSTRATING.

SOMETIMES CONGRESS CAN DEVISE WORKABLE  
SOLUTIONS FOR CRITICAL NATIONAL PROBLEMS, AND  
SOMETIMES IT JUST SEEMS TO LET THINGS DRIFT.

AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE, AS A  
CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AS A  
MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER, I HAVE HAD

MY SHARE OF VICTORIES AND DEFEATS. IT'S ALWAYS  
BETTER TO WIN. BUT ULTIMATELY, WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS  
TO SURVIVE TO FIGHT AGAIN ANOTHER DAY.

THOSE OF US NOW SERVING IN THE 101ST  
CONGRESS FEEL HONORED TO BE PART OF THE  
CONGRESSIONAL BICENTENNIAL. WE ARE DELIGHTED  
THAT ALL OF US HAVE ASSEMBLED HERE TO HELP US  
CELEBRATE THIS EVENT. AND WE TRUST THAT YOUR  
RESEARCHING AND WRITING ABOUT THE HISTORY AND

WORKINGS OF CONGRESS WILL HELP US AND THE  
PUBLIC UNDERSTAND THIS VENERABLE -- AND SOME  
TIMES VULNERABLE -- INSTITUTION EVEN BETTER.