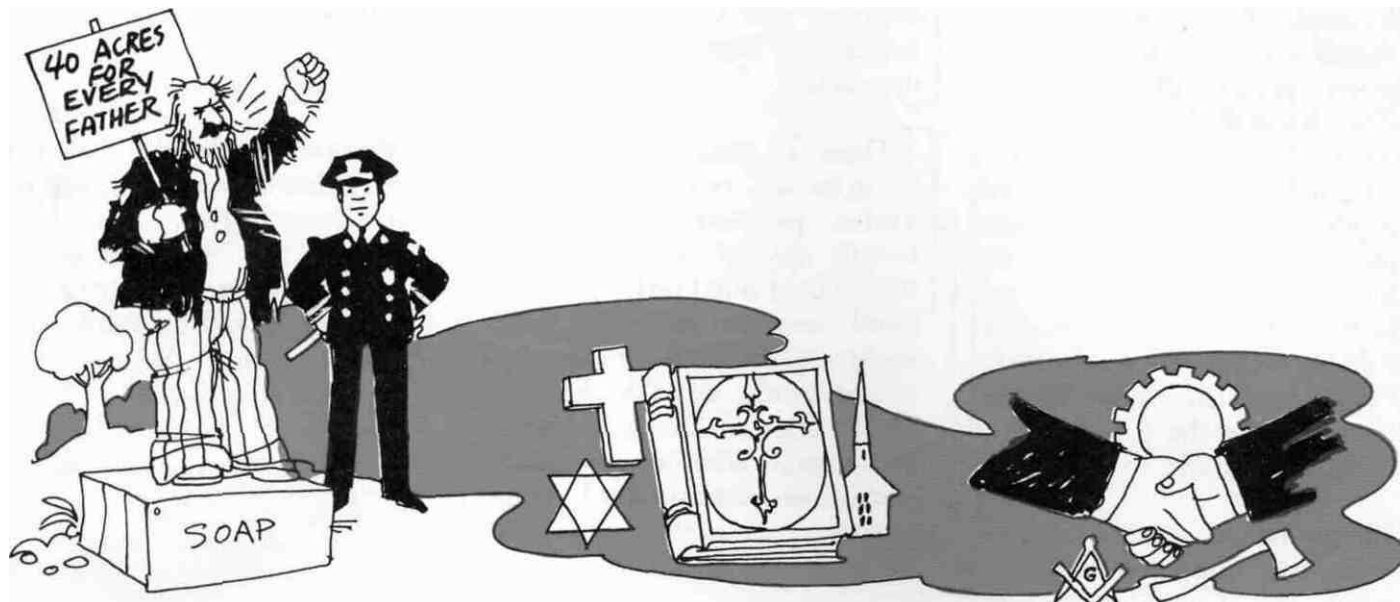


THE AMENDMENTS

The first ten amendments, or changes, in the Constitution came during the first meeting of Congress after the Constitution had been accepted. When the states met to vote on the Constitution, many people wanted some changes

made which would guarantee each person's own rights. The first ten amendments we often call the Bill of Rights. The amendments are also called articles, like the other parts of the Constitution.



Some Things to Know

Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

What It Means

Naturally, if a person says or prints something which is treason, that person is taking a chance with the law. If the person says or writes something not true, he or she may be sued for slander or libel.

AMENDMENT 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;

AMENDMENT 1 OUR FREEDOM

Congress shall make no law setting up a religion. Congress shall make no law to stop people from doing what their religion says they should.



or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press;

Congress shall make no law to keep people from saying what they want or printing what they think.

or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Congress shall make no law to keep people from meeting peacefully. Congress shall make no law to keep people from asking for help when they have not been treated fairly.



AMENDMENT 2

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

AMENDMENT 3

No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

AMENDMENT 4



The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

AMENDMENT 5

No person shall be held to answer for a capital or other infamous crime unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service, in time of

AMENDMENT 2 OUR RIGHT TO PROTECT OURSELVES

No one shall keep the people from having their own soldiers to protect themselves or from keeping guns.

AMENDMENT 3 HOUSING SOLDIERS IN WARTIME

In peace, no soldiers shall live in a person's house unless that person wants them to. In war a soldier may do so only as the law says.

AMENDMENT 4 PROTECTION FROM SEARCH

People, their houses, their papers, their property shall be safe from search. No court shall give a paper, or warrant, to search a person or that person's property except for good reason. Those who want such a search warrant must swear they mean to do right. They must also say just what is to be searched, where the place is, who the people are, and what they are searching for.

AMENDMENT 5 A FAIR TRIAL IN COURT

Nobody has to go to court for a crime which would mean death or jail unless that person is accused by a grand jury.

A *capital crime* is one for which death is the punishment.

A crime for which death or jail is the punishment.

A *grand jury* is a group of twelve to twenty-three persons. They are called in by the county sheriff or the

United States district marshal. They must hear, in *secret*, witnesses who are brought before them. If they think a person has committed a crime, they send a *true bill* of indictment back to court. If they think there is not enough evidence that this person has committed a crime, they write a *no true bill*. Persons for whom they write a true bill must later come up for *public* trial before another jury.

This has been used often by people who have been asked to appear before investigating committees of Congress. They often refuse to answer questions, saying they are invoking the Fifth Amendment.

In some countries witnesses could write what they wanted to say and never come to court.

The court gets people a lawyer if they have none themselves. They do not have to pay the lawyer.

war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself;! nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

This will not hold true for army, navy, or militia cases in times of danger to the country. People do not have to go to trial a second time if the court freed them the first time. People can not be made to say anything against themselves in court.

People shall not lose their lives, their freedom, or their property, without being fairly treated, as the Constitution says they should be. The government may not take people's property unless it pays them a fair price.



AMENDMENT 6

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

AMENDMENT 6

RIGHTS OF A MAN IN COURT

People in court for a crime shall have a prompt, open trial. They shall have a fair jury from the state and district where the crime was done.

The court must tell them why, they are being tried. Witnesses against them must speak when they are there.

The court shall make witnesses they want come to trial to speak. They shall have a **lawyer** to defend them.

This does not apply to state courts.



Courts in other times often punished by whipping, cutting noses, branding, cutting off ears, etc.



This reserves powers concerning such things as education, marriage, and divorce to the states.

AMENDMENT 7

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States than according to the rules of the common law.

AMENDMENT 8

Excessive bail shall not be required,

nor excessive fines imposed,

nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

AMENDMENT 9

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

AMENDMENT 10

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

(End of the Bill of Rights)

AMENDMENT 7 JURY TRIALS

In any case about money, the people up for trial may ask for a jury if the amount is over twenty dollars.

If a jury has ruled on anything, no one can change the ruling unless: There is a new trial before another jury, or there was a mistake in law made and another court takes the case.

AMENDMENT 8 PUNISHMENT

People who are to come up for trial shall not have to put up higher bail money than is sensible for the wrong.

Courts shall not ask fines which are out of line with the wrong done.

Courts shall not call for cruel or strange punishment.

AMENDMENT 9 OTHER RIGHTS

The Constitution gives you certain rights. It cannot list all your rights. If a right is not listed in the Constitution, that does not mean you do not have it.

AMENDMENT 10 RIGHTS OF STATES

All powers not given to the United States by the Constitution belong to the states or the people.