

To make sure the new national government could not violate individual rights of the people—some dating back to the Magna Carta, Americans insisted that the U.S. Constitution be amended to include a bill (or listing) of these rights, thus guaranteeing them. Several states made this a condition for ratification. So in 1789 Congressman James Madison led the House of Representatives in recommending such amendments to the states for ratification. In 1791 the states ratified the first ten amendments to the Constitution—the Bill of Rights.

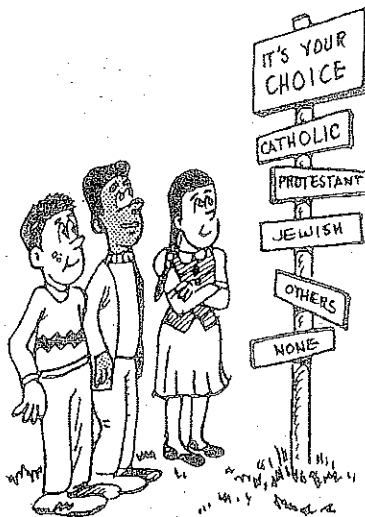
1st AMENDMENT:

CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS; OR OF THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

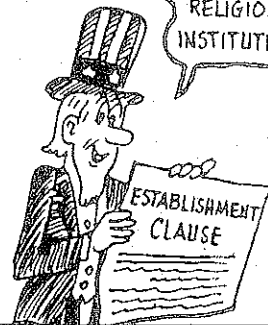
THIS IS THE LONGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT AMENDMENT. NOW LOOK AT WHAT EACH OF ITS 5 PARTS MEANS.



Freedom of Religion



THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT ESTABLISH AN OFFICIAL RELIGION. THIS MEANS YOU CAN'T BE FORCED TO ATTEND, OR SUPPORT WITH TAXES, ANY RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION.



Freedom of Speech

AND FURTHERMORE...

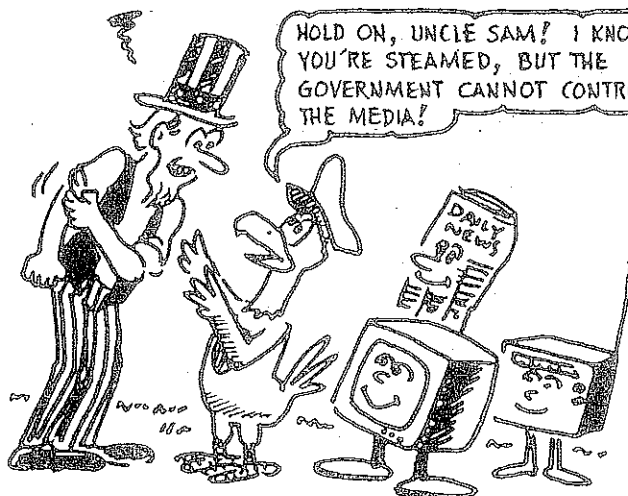
WHAT A LOT OF BUNK! I TOTALLY DISAGREE WITH HIM!

YES, BUT REMEMBER HE HAS A RIGHT TO SAY WHAT HE THINKS!



Freedom of the Press

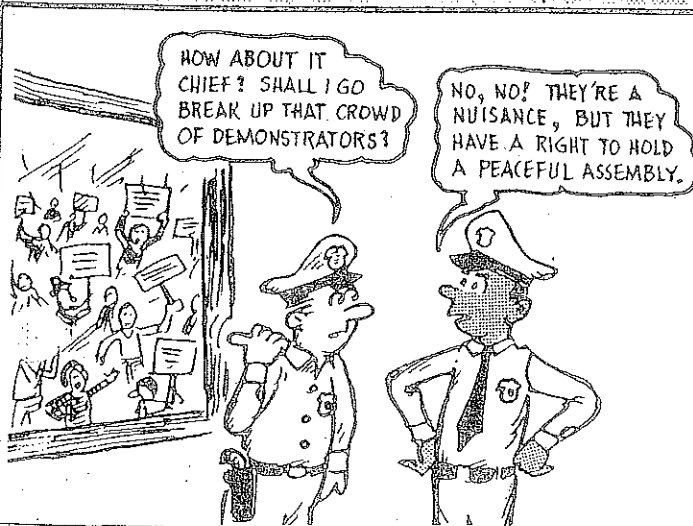
HOLD ON, UNCLE SAM! I KNOW YOU'RE STEAMED, BUT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT CONTROL THE MEDIA!



Freedom of Assembly

HOW ABOUT IT CHIEF? SHALL I GO BREAK UP THAT CROWD OF DEMONSTRATORS?

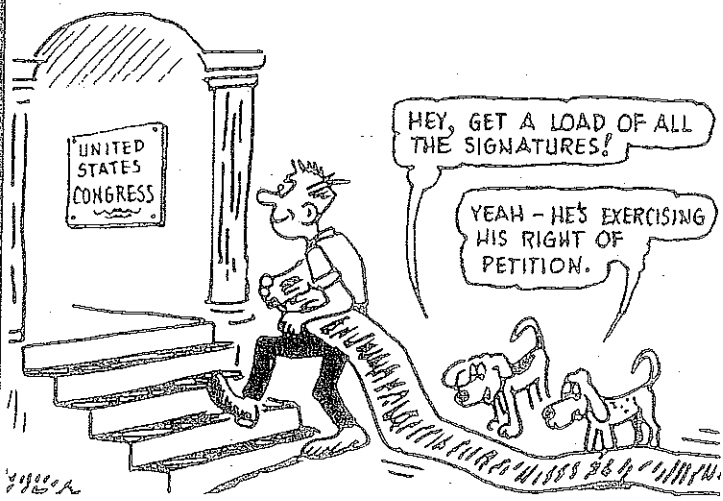
NO, NO! THEY'RE A NUISANCE, BUT THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO HOLD A PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY.



Freedom of Petition

HEY, GET A LOAD OF ALL THE SIGNATURES!

YEAH - HE'S EXERCISING HIS RIGHT OF PETITION.



### 2nd AMENDMENT

Right to bear arms



### 3rd AMENDMENT

Right not to quarter soldiers



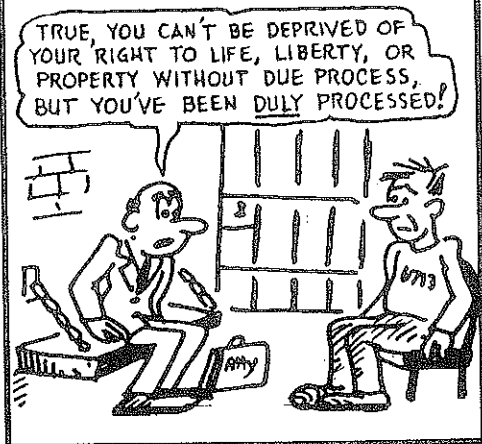
### 4th AMENDMENT

Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure



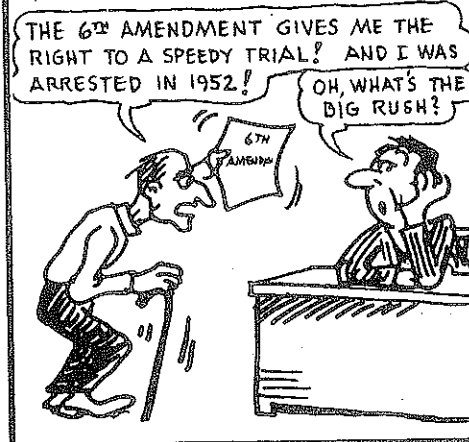
### 5th AMENDMENT

Due process of law



### 6th AMENDMENT

Right to a speedy trial



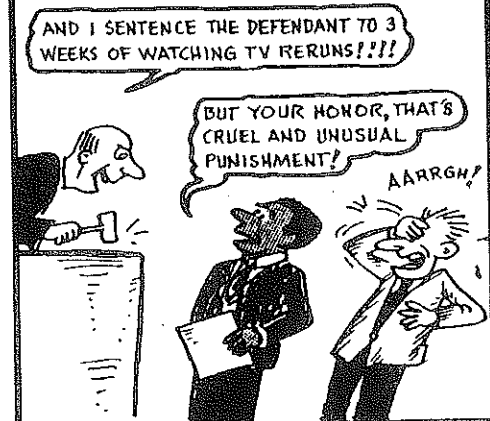
### 7th AMENDMENT

Right to a trial by jury



### 8th AMENDMENT

No cruel or unusual punishment



### 9th AMENDMENT

Constitutional rights do not deny other rights.



### 10th AMENDMENT

States' rights

