

COLLEGE OUTLINE SERIES

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# A Dictionary of AMERICAN POLITICS

Edited by

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and

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*New York*

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## Preface

This volume is a revision and expansion of another of the same title prepared by Edward C. Smith in 1924 which was in turn based upon a book published in 1888. The volume published in 1924 contained 1861 entries; the present one contains 3020 definitions of terms not including cross references.

The increase in the number of entries may be attributed in part to the not inconsiderable increase in the number of governmental concepts and institutions during the past two decades, a reflection of the increasingly important role of government and public affairs in contemporary life. The expansion in content is also to be explained in part by the editors' efforts to make this volume as comprehensive as possible. Although the reader may occasionally note omissions, a conscientious attempt has been made to incorporate all leading ideas and institutions which may interest students in each of the special areas into which the study of the broad field of American politics and public affairs is normally divided. These areas include: national, State, and local government and administration; legislative methods and procedures; American political and constitutional history; public administration; judicial procedure and administration; public opinion; political parties; public law; American political theory; international law; and American foreign relations. Foreign institutions and ideas have also been introduced occasionally, particularly those which are normally encountered in discussions on comparative political institutions.

A considerable amount of space has been devoted to the administrative establishments of the national government including many which have come into being as a result of the wartime emergency. The descriptions of these establishments will, it is hoped, include all the more important changes resulting from the large-scale reorganizations carried out since 1938; but these reorganizations occur so frequently that the reader is advised to supplement the entries in this *Dictionary* with the latest edition of the *United States Government Manual*.

Another considerable segment of entries comprises slogans, political slang, and the nicknames of statesmen and institutions which usage has permanently incorporated into the American political lexicon. Those versed in such argot may occasionally learn from the entries why and how it came into existence; those unfamiliar with American politics may find such entries valuable in facilitating their understanding of discussions of American public affairs in the press and elsewhere.

Editors and contributors are hopeful that this volume will be used not only by the specialist and by the layman interested in public affairs but that it will be frequently consulted by graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in courses in American governmental institutions, and the social sciences in general, in the colleges and universities. One of the principal reasons which impelled the editors to undertake this revision was the opportunity offered by the publishers to make it available to students in an inexpensive edition. As one of the COLLEGE OUTLINE SERIES it appears in a format known to students throughout the United States.

Attention is called to the series of twenty-four black-and-white maps, prepared by Edward C. Smith and Helen Roble Glowacki, reproduced at appropriate pages in the text. Some of these maps outline the territorial jurisdiction of various judicial and administrative bodies; the majority, however, relate to important stages in the physical and political expansion of the United States. Several of them have no counterpart except in highly specialized works.

The production of this book has been an enterprise in scholarly co-operation; and the editors take this opportunity to thank their various colleagues whose names appear among the list of contributors on a subsequent page. Acknowledgments are also due to numerous other individuals and organizations whose aid has been considerable. The editors are especially indebted to the following: Mr. Dwight H. Brown, Secretary of State of Missouri; Mr. S. Howard Cohen, President of the Board of Elections in the City of New York; Mr. Edward J. Hummel, Secretary of State of Ohio; Mr. Frank Marsh, Secretary of State, and Mr. J. C. Coupland, Jr., Deputy Secretary of State, of Nebraska — all of whom furnished sample ballots from which reproductions have been made; the Automatic Voting Machine Corporation of Jamestown, New York, which furnished illustrations of the voting machine; the Bureau of Public Relations of the Department of War; and the Office of Public Relations of the Department of the Navy.

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# A

**A.A.A.** *See* Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

**abatement.** Abolishment, as of a nuisance; reduction, as of an assessment or the amount of a tax. s.

**A.B.C. Mediation.** The mediation of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile after the United States had occupied Vera Cruz in reprisal for an attack on American sailors at Tampico. It resulted in the Niagara Falls Conference in August, 1914, at which it was agreed that American troops would be withdrawn as soon as a Mexican government, popularly elected, had restored order. s.

**abdication.** Renunciation of the privileges and prerogatives of an office. The act of abdication is usually personal and does not affect the existing rules of succession to the office unless so stipulated. z.

**ability theory.** A theory that taxes should be levied upon persons in accordance with their ability to pay them, measured either by the amount of property owned or by income received; opposed to the benefit theory. s.

**abolitionist.** An extreme opponent of Negro slavery who sought to do away with the institution — by propaganda based on moral principles, as William Lloyd Garrison; by force, as John Brown; or by the organization of parties, appeals to Congress, and other political means. s.

**Abominations, Tariff of.** The tariff law of 1828 dissatisfaction with which led to South Carolina's ordinance of nullification. The tariff was generally unpopular and was modified by the act of 1832 and the Compromise Tariff of 1833. z

**abrogation.** Annulment by competent authority. s.

**absentee voting.** Participation in elections by qualified voters who, because of illness or absence from home for business or other reasons, are unable to appear at the polls in person on election day. Under the laws of nearly every State, they are permitted to mail their ballots to the proper election officials. s.

**absolute contraband.** Arms and munitions of war. *See* Contraband. s.

**absolute majority.** More than half of the number of persons entitled to vote on a given question, regardless of the number in attendance or voting. JRP.

**absolutism.** A government in which unlimited and arbitrary

power over persons and property is committed to a monarch or dictator; the exercise of unlimited and absolute power. z.

**acceptance speech.** *See* Speech of acceptance.

**accession.** 1. The act of taking office or coming to power.  
2. The act of entering a confederation or of accepting the terms of a multilateral treaty or convention. s.

**accident, industrial.** An injury arising out of, or in the course of, employment which causes temporary or permanent disability or death. Laws in nearly every State require safety devices, the screening of dangerous machinery, fire escapes, and adequate lighting; and detailed rules for conducting operations involving extraordinary hazards. Women and children may be excluded from such operations. For many occupations, some States require the passing of tests for general health, vision, and technical competence as a condition of employment. Industrial accidents constitute about one-fifth of all accidents in the United States, but the ratio is declining steadily. *See* Workmen's compensation. JMCC.

**accident insurance.** A system of insurance which indemnifies its beneficiaries for disability resulting from personal injury. Laws in all States require employers to insure against such accidents through State compensation insurance funds or accredited private insurance companies, or to prove financial ability to pay compensation. JMCC.

**acclamation.** Overwhelming approval expressed by cheering, shouts, or handclapping in a party convention or similar body. It is practically the only method of voting used in the parliaments of contemporary authoritarian governments. z.

**accord.** A diplomatic entente or international understanding usually of a verbal character. The term is also applied to agreements or compromises reached by erstwhile conflicting groups within a country; *e.g.*, labor and capital. z.

**accounts, committee on.** A standing legislative committee charged with the duty of determining whether or not funds appropriated have been expended honestly and for the public interest. Unlike the British counterpart, American committees on accounts perform a more or less nominal function. s.

**accretion.** Addition to territory through a gradual rise of the land surface at the coast line or through the deposit of silt. s.

**acquisition.** The securing of title to a territory either by such legal means as discovery, occupation, purchase, treaty, or peaceful annexation, or by forcible annexation. z.

**acquittal.** A court decision declaring an accused person not guilty of criminal charges formally brought against him and absolving him from further prosecution for the same offense. JWF.

**action.** A legal proceeding (strictly speaking, at common law) to enforce one's rights against another. z.

**act of Congress.** In American parliamentary usage, this term embraces only statutes of Congress which originated as bills introduced by the clause, "Be it enacted, etc." It is not used to describe statutes of Congress couched in the form of joint resolutions; nor does it ordinarily refer to any other action of Congress. Acts of Congress are published after every session in the *Statutes at Large of the United States* and those in force may be found in the *Code of Laws of the United States* as revised and supplemented. z.

**Adams and Clay Republicans.** The faction of the Democratic-Republican party which after 1825 supported John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay. s.

**Adamson Act.** An act of Congress Sept. 3, 1916, which gave legal recognition to the eight-hour day for employees on interstate railroads and established a procedure for the solution of pending railroad labor controversies. z.

**adjournment.** The closing of business for a day, for several days, or indefinitely (*sine die*). Neither house of Congress may adjourn for more than three days without the consent of the other. If the two houses disagree as to the time of adjournment, the President may adjourn them; but he has never had occasion to exercise the power. An adjournment closes the legislative day; a recess does not. s.

**adjudication.** The process of trying causes or settling controversies in courts of law. JWF.

**adjusted compensation.** A bonus paid in 1924 to veterans of World War I in the form of paid-up life insurance, later (1936) converted to bonds or cash, the amount being based on length of service, with a premium for foreign service. s.

**adjutant general.** The chief staff officer of a military organization. The Adjutant General's Department communicates all orders and instructions from the War Department to the army, supervises recruiting, issues publications, and keeps the nation's military archives. z.

**administration.** 1. In general, the management of public affairs, the enforcement of law, and the fulfillment of public policy. It is usually differentiated from the executive and legislative function in its lack of power to determine and declare public policy; and from the judicial function in its ability to arrive at decisions with relative freedom from the formality of procedural rules. Because of the growing complexity of government in a technological civilization and the increased social responsibility of the state, these distinctions, always somewhat vague, have become more so. Concrete evidence that they are disappearing may be found in the creation of numerous independent commissions in the United States with quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial powers and in the tendency of Congress and the State legislatures to delegate power to admin-



istrative "experts." The growing importance of public administration is reflected in contemporary emphasis upon the proper articulation of governmental agencies, improvement in the techniques of management, the substitution of trained for amateur personnel, and the increasing attractiveness and prestige of public service.

2. The whole body of executive officials. 3. The tenure of a President or a governor.

AJW, JR.

**administrative.** Pertaining to management generally, or to the art or function of managing public affairs, or to the agencies or branches of government which perform the task of administration.

JRP.

**administrative court.** On the Continent of Europe, a court organized outside the regular system of judicial courts which applies administrative law, including the right to declare administrative orders invalid for want of proper legal authority. It has also important advisory functions. In America such legislative courts as the Court of Claims and the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals are often improperly called administrative courts.

s.

**administrative law.** 1. That part of public law which regulates the conduct of public officials and determines the rights of individuals in their dealings with these officials, including the legal remedies available to individuals for the protection of these rights. 2. The body of law created by administrative agencies in the form of rules and regulations, administrative orders, and administrative decisions.

JRP.

**administrative lie.** A statute passed in response to public demand for moral reform which is purposely made so stringent as to be unenforceable. The term originated with W. T. Jerome, former district attorney of New York County.

s.

**administrative order.** A regulation issued by an administrative officer amplifying and making more specific the provisions of a statute. In the United States the power to issue such an order is normally expressly granted by a statute; and when properly issued, the order has the force of law. Increasing use of administrative orders is one of the striking governmental phenomena of recent years.

CHS.

**administrative reorganization.** The effort in the United States to promote governmental economy, efficiency, and more effective control by reconstructing and simplifying the administrative apparatus of government. Some 27 States have reformed their administrative systems since 1917 by means of constitutional amendment or statute. The reforms have usually embraced: (1) the consolidation of numerous administrative agencies into relatively few single-headed, integrated departments under the direct supervision of the governor; (2) the appointment and removal of principal officials or department heads by the governor with, or without, the advice and consent of the State senate, and the abolition

of popular election of such officials; (3) investiture in the governor of the preparation of the budget, fiscal controls, and staff services. A similar trend in the national government has been apparent in the adoption of the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 and in various administrative reorganization measures which have given the President important staff services and considerable discretion in reallocating and consolidating administrative agencies. In municipalities the reorganization movement has been strongly influenced by such reforms as the strong-mayor, the commission, and the council-manager types of government. GHD.

**admiral.** The highest grade among naval officers. In the American navy it is a temporary rank for permanently commissioned rear admirals while they are acting as chiefs of naval operations or as commanders-in-chief of the fleet, or of the battle fleet, or of the Asiatic fleet. JWF.

**admiralty jurisdiction.** Authority to determine cases involving maritime contracts, collisions, and torts on the part of American vessels on the high seas or on navigable lakes and rivers; and also on the part of foreign vessels which later enter American ports. Admiralty cases are first heard in district courts and follow the usual course on appeal. S.

**admissions tax.** An excise tax levied upon patrons of places of amusement or recreation usually in the form of a fixed percentage of the price of admission. Z.

**admission to the Union.** An act of Congress which has the irrevocable effect of creating a new State equal in every respect to States already in the Union. With the exceptions of Vermont, Kentucky, Texas, California, and West Virginia, all new States have been elevated from a territorial status. The procedure usually followed is a petition of the territory for statehood, the passing by Congress of an enabling act which authorizes the inhabitants to draft a constitution, and the passing of an act of admission following the acceptance of the constitution. Although Congress may make certain conditions in the act of admission, only such conditions are valid as regulate national governmental or proprietary rights. Congress may not admit new States formed out of the territory of an existing State or combine two existing States without the consent of the legislatures of the States affected. Z.

**admonition.** A reprimand or warning carrying an implied penalty or sanction. GHD.

**adulteration.** The addition of a foreign substance to an article of commerce such as food or drugs, thereby reducing the quality below the accepted legal or published standards and deceiving prospective purchasers as to its true value. JMCC.

**ad valorem.** According to value, as determined by assessment, invoice, or appraisal. Such duties are fixed as a percentage of the

value of goods abroad (foreign valuation) or of their value in the American market (domestic valuation). S.

**advisory ballot.** A poll, the results of which are not binding but which are designed to exhibit the voters' preferences and possibly instruct their representatives. Z.

**advisory commission.** A permanently organized or *ad hoc* body authorized to make recommendations to a principal and to consult with him. Z.

**advisory opinion.** An opinion rendered by a court as to the constitutional or legal effect of a bill or a statute when no actual case is before it. From the beginning the Supreme Court of the United States has refused to render such opinions on the ground that it would be engaging in nonjudicial activity. When rendered in the States, advisory opinions have no binding force except in Colorado. *See* Declaratory judgment. S.

**advisory recall.** The extension of the principle of the recall in North Dakota and Arizona to Congressmen and local federal judges. The recall decision under such circumstances, however it may be formulated at the polls, can be interpreted merely as an invitation to the officeholder to resign, since his tenure is controlled by national, and not by State, law. Z.

**A.E.F.** *See* American Expeditionary Force.

**aerial domain.** The air space beginning some miles from the terrestrial surface and continuing outward into the stratosphere. Private proprietary rights do not extend to it; its use and regulation are entirely under public control. Though the States still exercise considerable regulatory power over their respective aerial domains, pre-eminent authority rests with the national government because of its power over interstate and foreign commerce and national defense. Z.

**affidavit.** A written statement by an individual under oath or by affirmation attesting to certain beliefs on his part or to the truth of statements which he has made. JWF.

**affirmation.** A solemn declaration, made under circumstances normally requiring an oath and legally equivalent thereto, by a person whose moral or religious scruples prevent his taking an oath. Z.

**agenda.** Items of business in the program of a public meeting, council, or deliberative assembly. Z.

**agent provocateur.** An unofficial police agent who incites suspected persons to commit overt acts indicative of guilt; also loosely applied to an agent hired by one nation to encourage disaffected elements of another state's citizenry to commit acts of sabotage, sedition, or treason. Z.

**aggravation.** 1. Any action or circumstance which increases

the magnitude of a crime or its penalties. 2. Any action or circumstance which intensifies the seriousness of a dispute and makes its solution more difficult. z.

**aggression.** An attempt by one state to impair another's political sovereignty or territorial integrity by forcible means devoid of moral or legal justification. z.

**agitation.** Efforts to stir up popular enthusiasm and support for some political nostrum or cause; colloquially, such efforts as are considered subversive. z.

**agrarian.** Pertaining to landed property or to agriculture; also to political action designed to promote the interests of the farming classes. JWF.

**agreement.** A mutual arrangement or understanding among two or more parties which, if legally enforceable, is equivalent to a contract. *See* Executive agreement. z.

**Agricultural Adjustment Administration.** A division of the United States Department of Agriculture whose principal purposes are to maintain a continuous and adequate supply of basic agricultural commodities at prices fair to consumer and producer and to conserve soil resources. Operating through local farm representatives and with the co-operation of farmers, it establishes national acreage goals and market quotas for selected commodities, supplies payments for the observance of conservation practices, and provides loans on surplus crops which permit the farmer to hold them in reserve. The Administration is under the direction of the Agricultural Adjustment and Conservation Administrator. z.

**agricultural and mechanical college.** A college established and operated by a State for instruction in agricultural, engineering, military, and other subjects, and endowed with funds from the sale of public land provided by the Morrill Act (*q.v.*) z.

**agricultural bloc.** *See* Farm bloc.

**agricultural credit.** Financial credit extended to farmers and co-operative associations for the purchase and improvement of land; for feed, seeds, fertilizers, etc.; and for assistance in marketing crops under the terms of various acts of Congress beginning with the act of July 17, 1916, which established the federal land banks. The Farm Credit Administration (*q.v.*) administers the laws. z.

**agricultural experiment station.** A local establishment usually maintained in connection with some educational or scientific institution, for testing, research, and the publication and dissemination of scientific information, under the direction of the Department of Agriculture. z.

**Agricultural Extension Service.** A branch of the Department of Agriculture established in 1924 which, through land-grant colleges and county agricultural and home demonstration agents,

brings the results of scientific research in agriculture and home economics to farms and rural homes. z.

**Agricultural Marketing Service.** An agency of the Department of Commerce under the immediate direction of the Agricultural Marketing Administrator which provides farmers with statistical data concerning national and world-wide crop conditions, yields, prices, and general market conditions. z.

**Agricultural Wheel.** A farmers' association founded in Arkansas in 1882 and active in politics in the Southwest. s.

**Agriculture, Department of.** 1. The eighth of the departments of the national government, which was created Feb. 9, 1889, succeeding an office of the same name, dating from 1862, which was administered by a commissioner. At first confining its activities to experimentation, research, and the dissemination of information concerning agriculture and rural problems, it has recently been charged with the enforcement of more than fifty regulatory laws to protect the farmer and the general public. It maintains an inspection service for meats and other products, eradicates plant and animal diseases, promotes soil conservation and rural electrification, supervises the extension of credit for the purchase of farms and the raising of crops, and insures wheat and cotton farmers against loss of crops through natural hazards. 2. The title of an administrative unit in many States which independently, or in co-operation with the national Department of Agriculture, engages in research and the dissemination of information, promotes the welfare of farmers, and enforces many laws enacted under the State police power to compel the observance of sanitary regulations, to eradicate plant and animal diseases, and to maintain marketing standards. s.

**aid and comfort to the enemy.** An overt attempt by a person owing allegiance to a belligerent state to render material assistance to the government or combatants of an enemy belligerent. If proved in court, such action may be punished as treason in the United States. z.

**air, jurisdiction over.** The exclusive sovereignty of every state over the air space above its territory. The Paris Convention for the Regulation of Aerial Navigation, 1919, provides for innocent passage of aircraft of one state over the territory of another, subject to nondiscriminatory municipal regulations. *See* Aerial domain. JWF.

**air-mail service.** Regular transportation of mail by airplane, begun by the United States Post Office Department in 1919 and since extended to almost every part of the world. JWF.

**air-raid protection.** A service rendered through the Office of Civilian Defense which provides for equipment and personnel to prevent loss of life and property in air raids. JMCC.

**Alabama.** The 22nd State, admitted Dec. 14, 1819, from terri-

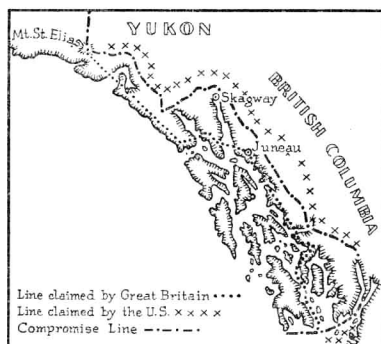
tory ceded by Georgia, plus a part of West Florida. It adopted an ordinance of secession Jan. 11, 1861, and was readmitted June 25, 1868. Capital, Montgomery; area, 51,078 sq. mi.; population (1940), 2,832,961; presidential electors, 11. Under the present constitution, adopted in 1901, the governor and members of both houses of the legislature are elected for four-year terms, and suffrage is limited by strict property or literacy, and poll-tax requirements.

**Alabama claims.** Claims by the United States against Great Britain for damages to American commerce by the *Alabama* and other Confederate war vessels and privateers which were built in England in violation of international law and British statutes. By the Treaty of Washington, May 8, 1871, the United States and Great Britain agreed that the claims should be submitted to arbitrators, who later met at Geneva, Switzerland, and awarded the United States \$15,500,000.

**alarmist.** One who attempts to excite popular fears of the consequences of some governmental policy.

**Alaska.** An incorporated and fully organized territory of the United States, purchased from Russia by treaty signed Mar. 30, 1867, for \$7,200,000, and valuable for its fisheries, mineral wealth, and strategic position in the Pacific. Area, 586,400 sq. mi.; population (1940), 73,023; seat of government, Juneau. It was made a "district" in 1884, and a territory in 1912, with an appointive governor and judiciary and a popularly elective legislature of two houses. It is a fully incorporated territory.

**Alaskan Boundary Dispute.** A controversy between the United States and Great Britain arising from the indefinite terms of an Anglo-Russian treaty of 1825.



Alaskan Boundary Dispute

It had fixed the boundary between Alaska and Canada along the crest of a range of mountains which was supposed to parallel the coast; but if the crest was not ascertainable, the line was to be drawn not more than ten marine leagues from the coast, following its sinuosities. There was no continuous range of mountains in the position indicated. The United States claimed that the distance of ten marine leagues should

be measured from the heads of fiords which deeply indent the coast; Great Britain, that it should be measured from the headlands, thereby including most of the ports. In 1903 a joint com-

mission of three persons from each country fixed a compromise boundary line. s.

**Albany Plan of Union.** A scheme of colonial union proposed by Benjamin Franklin at the Albany convention, 1754, which provided for a president-general appointed by the Crown and delegates from colonial assemblies meeting annually with power to regulate Indian affairs, levy taxes, and raise armies. s.

**Albany regency.** A group of Democratic politicians in New York, among whom were Silas Wright and William L. Marcy, who controlled their party from 1821, when Martin Van Buren went to Washington, until about 1850. s.

**alderman.** Formerly a member of a municipal council of higher rank than common councilor; later a member of the upper house of a council and often the title of a councilman. s.

**Aldrich-Vreeland Act.** An act passed, 1908, after the financial crisis of 1907 which permitted associations of national banks to issue emergency bank notes secured by commercial paper and the securities of States and their subdivisions. A few million dollars of this currency were placed in circulation prior to the inauguration of the Federal Reserve System. z.

**Algeciras Conference.** A diplomatic conference at Algeciras, Spain, 1906, called to adjust conflicting interests of Germany, France, and other powers in Morocco. The attendance of American representatives is historically significant as evidence of the growing concern of the United States in world diplomacy. z.

**alien.** A person domiciled in a state of which he is not a citizen. Aliens enjoy most of the civil rights and the same measure of protection for those rights that citizens enjoy, especially in the United States, where the national and State bills of rights expressly extend their guarantees to "persons," whether citizens or aliens. Aliens, however, are often denied the right to own or inherit property, particularly real property, to engage in the exploitation of natural resources, to compete with citizens for certain types of private employment, or to engage in the practice of certain professions. They are excluded from the enjoyment of political rights, such as voting, officeholding, and public employment. Sometimes they are allowed to volunteer in the armed forces of the state of their domicile although such action usually requires as a preliminary some modified declaration of allegiance or a declaration of intention to become a citizen. In most states aliens are required to register, giving information as to their origin, their place of domicile, and other pertinent personal data. For moral turpitude or activities detrimental to the integrity of the political institutions of the state granting them hospitality, aliens may be deported. z.

**Alien and Sedition laws.** Several acts passed by Congress in 1798 which increased the period of residence required before nat-

uralization to 14 years, authorized the President to deport aliens dangerous to the peace of the country, and punished the writing, printing, or publication of any false, scandalous, or malicious writing against Congress or the President. s.

**alienation.** The transfer of property owned by a city to an individual or to another unit of government. s.

**Alien Property Custodian.** A federal official appointed to act as a trustee to hold, use, administer, or sell property belonging to alien enemies. s.

**Alien Registration Act.** An act of Congress June 29, 1940, which required all aliens domiciled in the United States to file a detailed personal and occupational record and a statement of their political beliefs. JWF.

**allegation.** A statement by a party to a legal controversy the truth of which he proposes to prove in court. JWF.

**allegiance.** The duty of fidelity and obligation of service owed by a citizen to his state or by a subject to his king. Aliens owe a local allegiance to the state in which they reside in contrast to the natural allegiance of the native-born, or the express allegiance of naturalized citizens or subjects. z.

**allegiance, oath of.** A solemn affirmation or declaration of fidelity to a state on the part of a person who is, or is about to become, a citizen of that state. z.

**alliance.** A formal agreement, secret or public, between two or more states in which they mutually pledge military and diplomatic support for the furtherance of a common policy towards another state or states. The publicly avowed purpose of an alliance is usually the defense of the territorial and political integrity of the allied states. z.

**allotment plan.** A fiscal practice in Nebraska and Illinois by which annual lump-sum appropriations for a department become available to it only when, at intervals of three months, the governor approves the anticipated expenditures and allocates sufficient funds therefor. AJW, Jr.

**almshouse.** A public welfare institution in the United States, usually known as the county farm, which provides shelter for the aged poor and sometimes for orphans, mental defectives, and other persons incapable of self-support. JWF.

**alphabetical agency.** A popular designation for one of many administrative commissions, boards, and other agencies of the national government which are often identified by the initial letters of the words of their official names. JWF.

**alternate.** A person chosen to attend a party convention and act in place of a delegate who is absent at any time. s.

**ambassador.** A diplomatic envoy of the highest rank, usually



entitled ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, who is sent by the head of a state to serve as his personal representative at a foreign government or court. The United States began to accredit ambassadors in 1893. z.

**Amen Corner.** A room in the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City where Senator Thomas C. Platt conferred, in his "Sunday school," about 1900, with State officials and politicians. s.

**amendment.** 1. A change made or proposed on the floor of a legislative body or in committee by adding to, striking out, or altering the wording of, any part of a bill or resolution. Legislative rules usually require that the amendment be germane to the subject matter, but violations are not uncommon. 2. An addition to, or a change of, a constitution or an organic act which is appended to the document rather than intercalated in the text. The Constitution of the United States provides for two methods of proposing amendments: (1) by a convention called by Congress on the application of two thirds of the States; or (2) by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress. Amendments so proposed may be ratified either by the legislatures or conventions of three fourths of the States. A State legislature which has rejected an amendment may afterward accept it; but, conversely, if it has once accepted an amendment it cannot recall its action. The Supreme Court has held that a legislature must act, and not the voters in a referendum, though an advisory referendum has sometimes been employed. In proposing amendments Congress may set a time limit, seven years, within which they must be ratified or considered to be rejected. The first ten amendments, constituting the Bill of Rights, were adopted in 1791. Two others, adopted in 1798 and 1804, remedied defects in the original Constitution. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, adopted between 1865 and 1870, freed the slaves and guaranteed their civil and political rights. Since 1913 six other amendments have been adopted dealing with the income tax, the prohibition question, the suffrage, and presidential and congressional terms. EES.

**amendment limitation.** Any restriction upon the process of amending a State constitution. It may affect the subject matter of the proposed amendment, or the number of proposals which may be offered within a given period, or the methods of submission or ratification. z.

**America for Americans.** A slogan of the Know-Nothing, or American, party. s.

**American Cato.** A nickname of Samuel Adams. s.

**American Colonization Society.** A society formed Jan. 1, 1817, for the purpose of transporting free Negroes from the United States. It settled Monrovia, Liberia, in 1821. s.

**American Expeditionary Force.** The American army sent to