

How Well Do You Know Us?

You can't run the country if you don't know anything about it. Use this quiz to see if you know enough of those little details that can help get you elected.

Q: How many Americans live within 50 miles of where they grew up?

A: One out of two.

Q: What percentage of Africa is considered wilderness? What percent of America?

A: 20% of Africa is wilderness. North America is 38% wilderness. No kidding.

Q: How much of US land is owned by the government?

A: One third.

Q: What's the largest city whose name is a single syllable? The largest state?

A: Flint, Michigan. Maine is the *only* state with a single-syllable name.

Q: Ohio is listed as the 17th state in the US, but technically it is number 47. Why?

A: Congress forgot to vote on a resolution to admit Ohio to the Union until 1953.

Q: What state has the longest coastline?

A: Michigan.

Q: When was the *Declaration of Independence* signed?

A: Only two people signed the *Declaration of Independence* on July 4th: John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

Q: The Pentagon has twice as many bathrooms as is necessary. Why?

A: When it was built in the 1940s, the state of Virginia still had segregation laws.

Q: Which is higher: the highest point in Pennsylvania or the lowest point in Colorado?

A: Colorado is tops.

Q: Why do we call a Jeep a "Jeep?"

A: The Army named it the General Purpose Vehicle, or "G.P."

Q: What percentage of New York City cabbies are recently arrived immigrants?

A: Nine out of ten.

Q: Which is farther west: Reno, Nevada or Los Angeles, California?

A: Reno. Get a map.

Q: Which state has the highest percentage of people who walk to work?

A: Alaska.

Q: What is the only National Monument that moves?

A: The San Francisco cable cars.

Q: In which state was the parking meter invented?

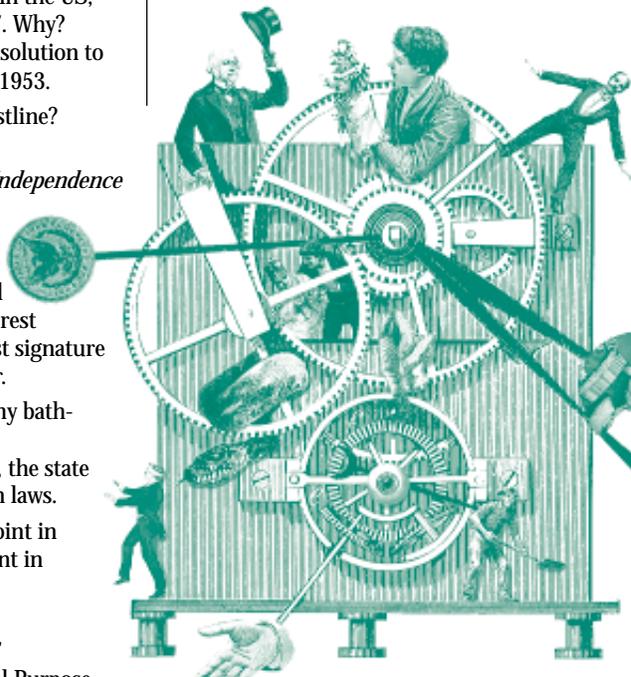
A: North Dakota. Go figure. ■

Congressional Record

Should Congress take some kind of action against the following company? Check this out: of more than 500 employees...

- 29 have been accused of spousal abuse
- 7 were arrested for fraud
- 19 accused of writing bad checks
- 117 bankrupted at least two businesses
- 71 cannot get a credit card due to bad personal credit
- 14 have been arrested on various drug-related charges
- 8 have been arrested for shoplifting
- 21 currently are defending lawsuits
- 8 were stopped by police for drunk driving during 1998

Congress probably won't act against this group—because this group *is* Congress! ■



political machinery

What Goes Around...

One day farmer Fleming heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. There, mired to his waist, was a terrified boy, unable to free himself. Fleming rescued the lad from a slow but certain death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the poor farmer's humble home. "I want to repay you for saving my son's life," announced the elegantly dressed man as he stepped out. Although Fleming's needs were great, he refused the money. But at that moment a curious young boy appeared at the door. "Is this your son?" the nobleman asked. Fleming replied proudly that it was. "Then let me give him a good education," the nobleman offered, "for if the lad is anything like his father, he'll surely succeed."

And succeed he did: he graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world. The boy, Sir Alexander Fleming, discovered penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia, and in a twist of fate it was penicillin that saved him. He too, made a name for himself: Winston Churchill. ■

Taxing Paperwork

Percent of people who file tax returns on April 15th: 25

Percent of Americans who prepare their own taxes: 49

Total time individuals spend preparing taxes: 1.9 billion hours

IRS budget for 2000: \$8 billion

Amount the average American has to pay to make up for tax evaders: \$1,100

In 1000 B.C., Israelites paid their taxes with raisins.

Albert Einstein was unable to figure out his 1040 tax form. ■

PERIODIC TABLE OF POLITICS

In a recent contest, *The Washington Post* asked readers to dream up new elements for the Periodic Table. Among our favorite entries:

Congressium (Cg) Atomic number 525. Can never be found in a solution.

Clintonium (Bc) Appearing slick under a microscope, this element undergoes a series of interesting changes when in hot water.

Newtium (Nt) An extreme irritant. Carries a strong negative charge. Not magnetic.

Inoffensium (Pc) Precisely equal numbers of electrons, protons, neutrons. Completely inert, utterly useless, but smells like a rose.

Quaylium (Vp) Well, it's no Kennedium.

Limbaughium (Lb) Very acidic. Emits heat but no light. Instantly polarizes all elements that come in contact with it.

Politicism (Po) Contains a great deal of gas. Similar to radon in that it can reach lethal concentrations in the House. ■