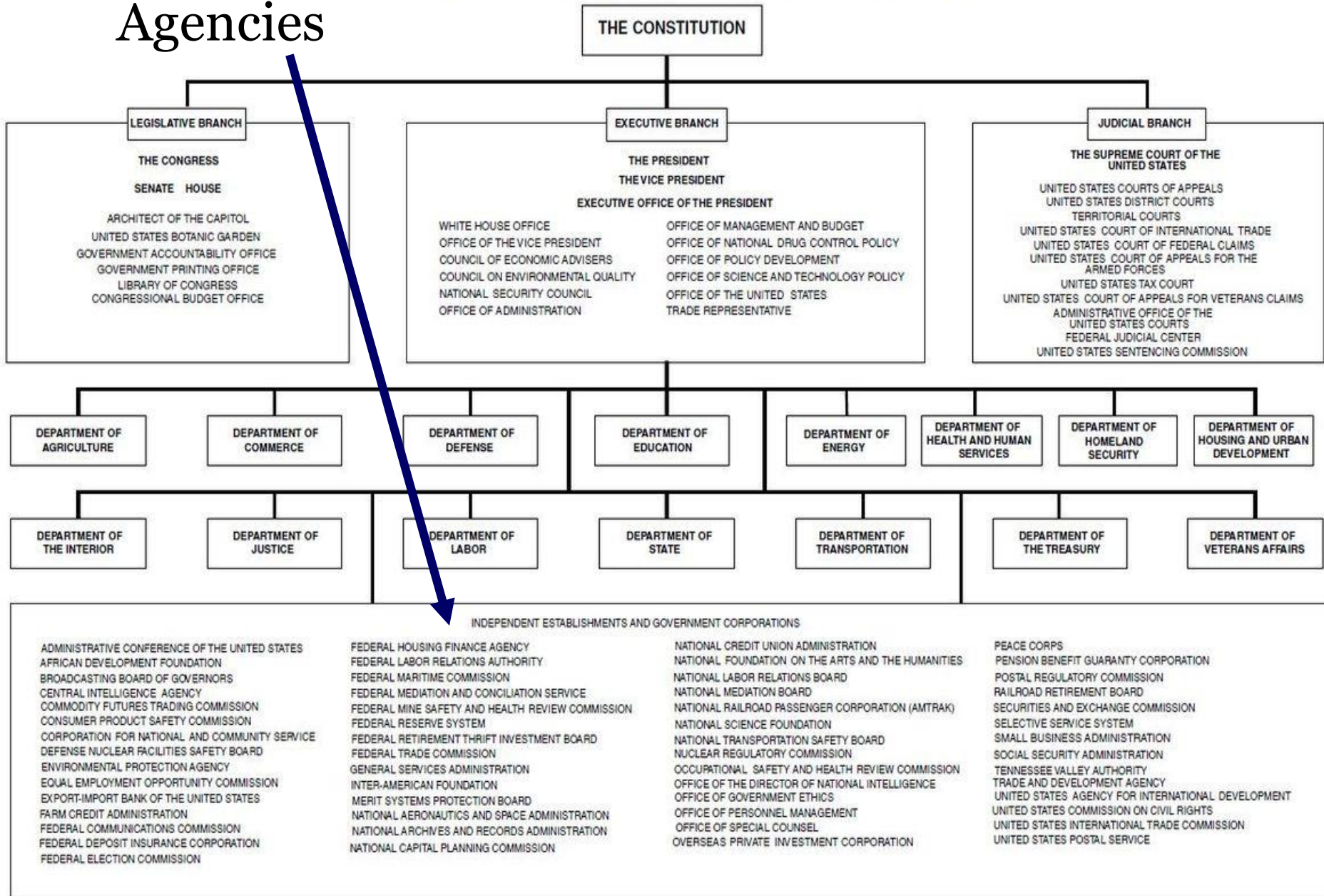


Independent Agencies



Independent Agencies

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES



Independent Agencies

- The 15 executive departments handle only a portion of the government's functions
- Congress writes law, and the executive branch puts the rules and procedures in place to carry out said laws; but part of the executive branch was formed to meet special needs (it was believed that these agencies should function as nonpartisan agencies)

(The president has shared, limited, or no control over IAs, making them “independent” but still technically under the executive branch)

Three types:

1. Executive Agencies
2. Regulatory Commissions
3. Government Corporations



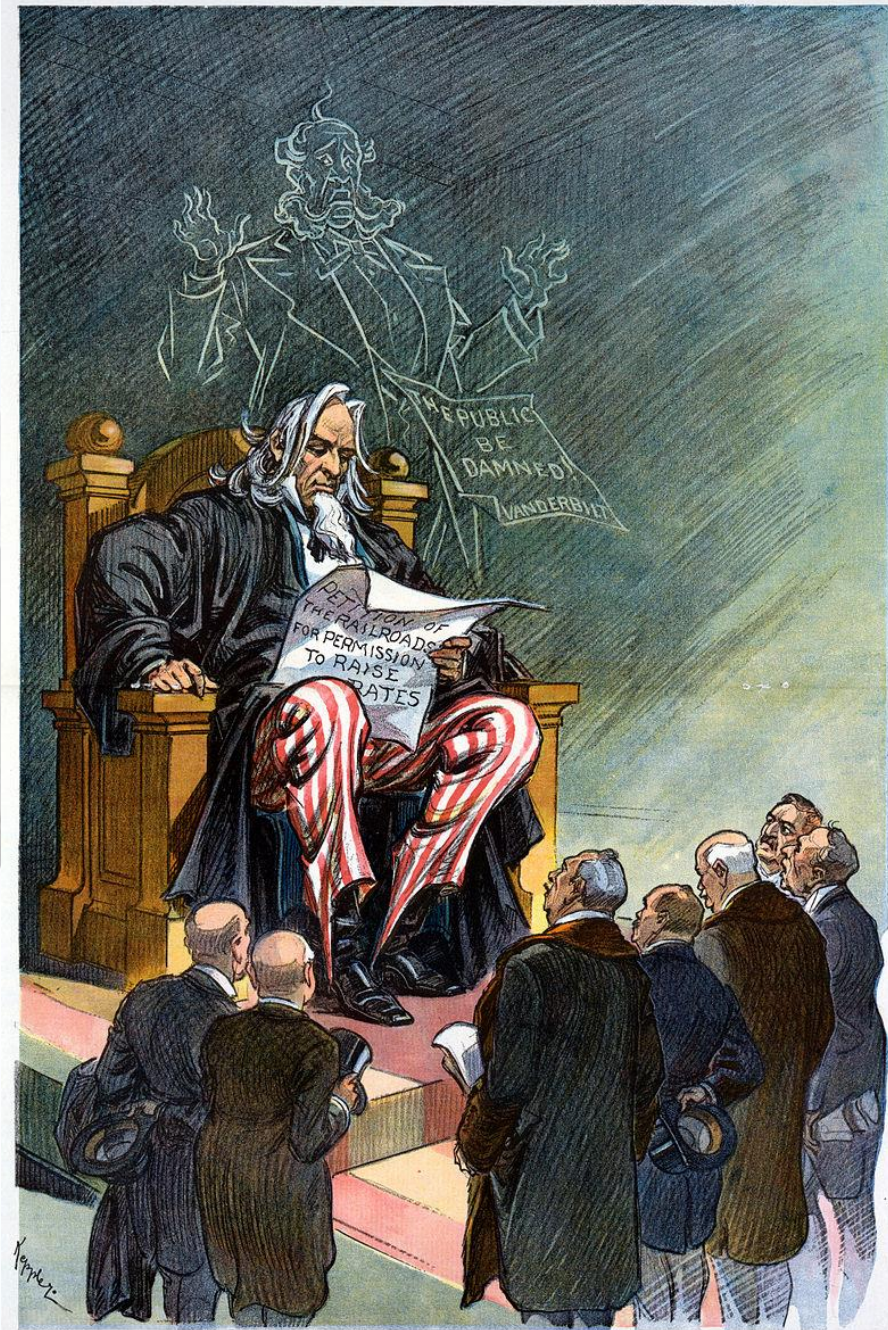
-IAs are overseen by Congress, but operate with more autonomy than other departments in the executive branch

-Heads of IAs may be removed only in cases of poor performance or unethical activities

-IAs operate independently to create rules and performance standards, deal with conflicts, and discipline employees who violate regulations without “playing politics”

-The end of the Civil War in 1865 encountered rapid growth of business and industry in America – leading to the need for fair and ethical business competition (so out of that need, one of the 1st independent agencies, the Interstate Commerce Commission was established)

-The Supreme Court thus upheld the constitutional basis for independent agencies in *Humphrey's Executor v. U.S.* (1935)



HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!
GHOST OF A FORMER MAGNATE.—I would n't believe it if I did n't see it with my own eyes! Asking permission!! ASKING!!!

Types of Independent Agencies



1. Executive Agencies

-Deal with certain specialized areas within the government and are not part of an Executive Department (although they may work closely with them)

-Report to the president but Congress provides the legislation that funds them (so they share authority in a way)

Some examples:

Social Security Administration: oversees the pension system for the elderly and disabled

Central Intelligence Agency: responsible for collecting and interpreting information about foreign nations; also answers to the National Security Council

Small Business Administration: promotes the growth of small businesses

A monthly check to you -

FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
•• BEGINNING WHEN YOU ARE
65

GET YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER promptly

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED AT ALL WORK PLACES

WHO IS ELIGIBLE •• EVERYBODY WORKING FOR SALARY OR WAGES (WITH ONLY A FEW EXCEPTIONS, SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, DOMESTIC SERVICE, AND GOVERNMENT WORK). APPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH EMPLOYERS. IF YOU DO NOT GET ONE FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, ASK FOR ONE AT THE POST OFFICE.

HOW TO RETURN APPLICATION

1. HAND IT BACK TO YOUR EMPLOYER, *or*
2. HAND IT TO ANY LABOR ORGANIZATION OF WHICH YOU ARE A MEMBER, *or*
3. HAND IT TO YOUR LETTER CARRIER, *or*
4. DELIVER IT TO LOCAL POST OFFICE, *or*
5. MAIL IT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE ADDRESSED POSTMASTER, LOCAL

DO IT NOW. NO POSTAGE NEEDED.

- Social Security Board

INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT ANY POST OFFICE

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): develops and administers the nation's space program
- National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities: promotes the growth of the arts →
- Environmental Protection Agency: enforces environmental protection laws
- Commission on Civil Rights: investigates complaints alleging that citizens are being deprived of their right to vote by reason of their race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin



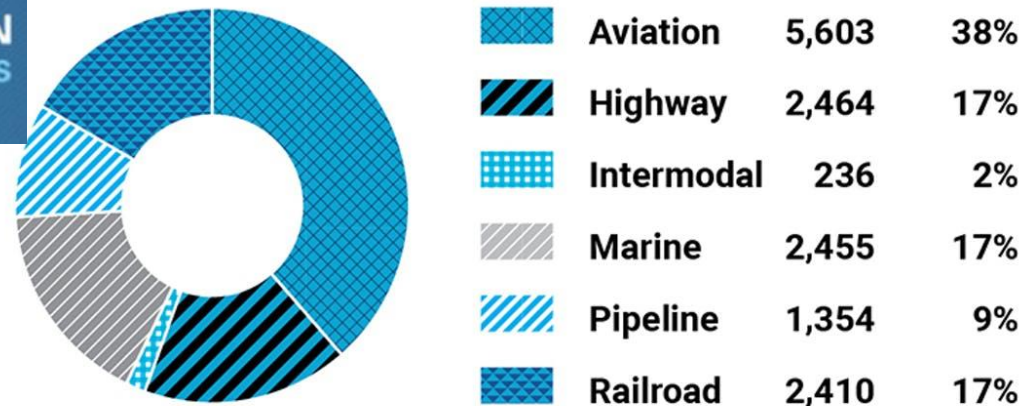
Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens. It must therefore foster and support a form of education, and access to the arts and the humanities, designed to make people of all backgrounds and wherever located masters of their technology and not its unthinking servants.

- from the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965

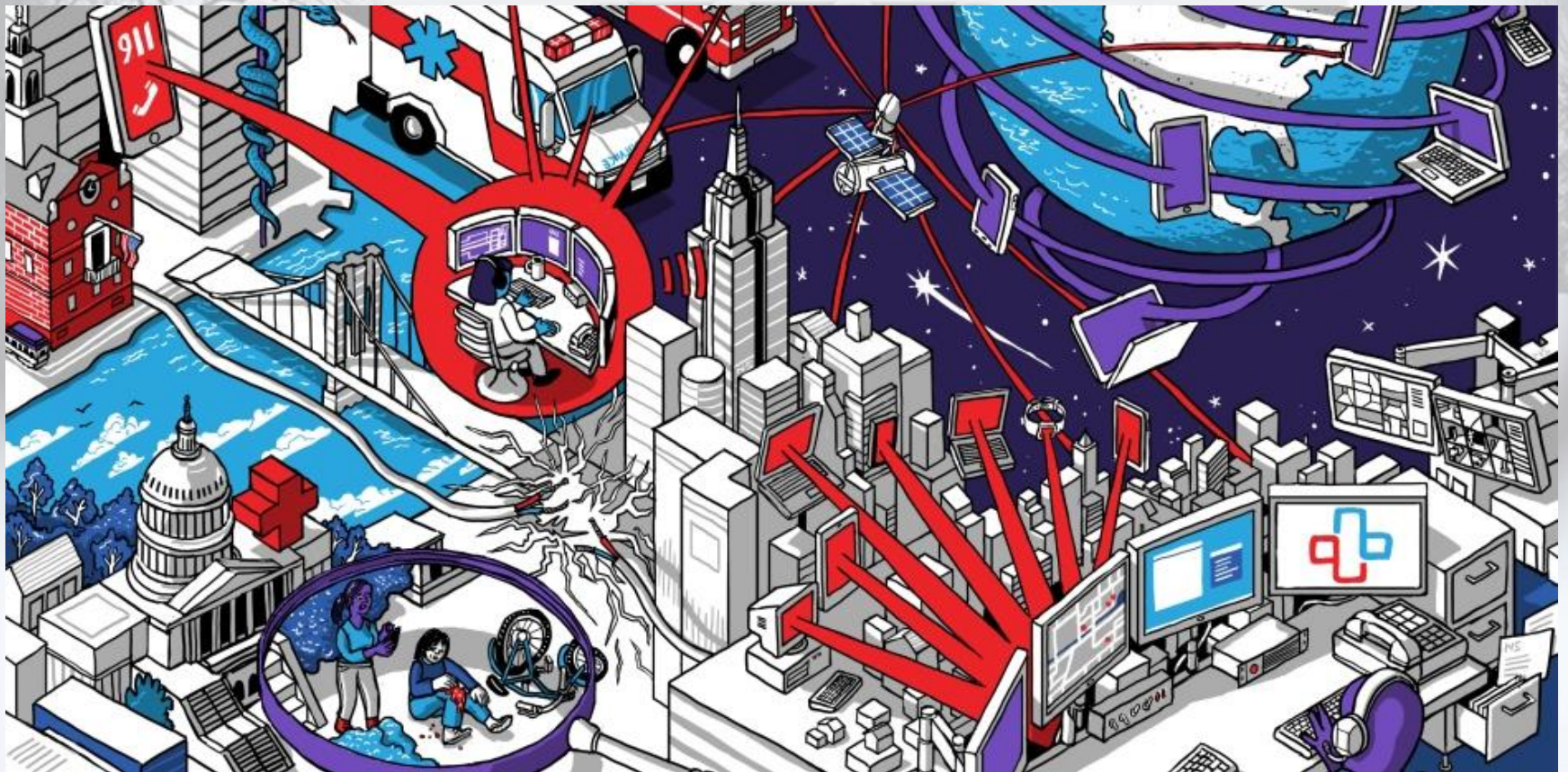
2. Independent Regulatory Commissions

- Groups that are given the power to regulate or control a certain industry or activity
- Largely beyond the reach of presidential control
- Federal Reserve: controls the nation's system of banks, decides the nation's monetary policy, regulates the money supply, and attempts to maintain the nation's financial stability
- Federal Trade Commission: regulates business practices to ensure fairness
- National Transportation Safety Board: oversees the investigation of transportation accidents and other transportation concerns

Number of Safety Recommendations Issued Since 1967, by Mode



- Securities and Exchange Commission: monitors the activities of the Stock Market
- Federal Communications Commission: monitors telecommunication industries
- National Labor Relations Board: oversees the practices of labor unions, employees, and employers
- Consumer Product Safety Commission: oversees the safety of products sold to the public



3. Government Corporations

Government agencies that are operated and run as though they were a profit-oriented (money making) business

-Usually, these are groups that provide a service to the public but attempt to do so at a minimal cost to the government's budget

-U.S. Postal Service

-AMTRAK (National Railroad Passenger Corporation)

