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| **Advice & Consent** | This power comes from Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the Constitution, which reads,  

... and [the president] shall nominate and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers, and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court and all other officers of the United States... | Between 1834 and 1991, the Senate has voted 12 times to reject a Cabinet nominee.  

**Rejection of John Tower as Secretary of Defense:**  
Vote March 9, 1989  

Yes: 47  
No: 53 |

| **Investigation & Oversight** | This is an implied power, drawn from Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution, which states,  

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States... | Congress's investigation of wars. On March 27, 1792, the first congressional investigation was approved by the House. A select committee was given the task of investigating an Indian victory over U.S. troops commanded by Maj. Gen. Arthur St. Clair. The Spanish American War (1898) was the only war in U.S. history not investigated by Congress.  

One of the most famous investigations was conducted by the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities (Watergate Committee) into the illegal campaign practices of the 1972 presidential election. |

In 1946, the Legislative Reorganization Act authorized congressional committees to “exercise continuous watchfulness” over administrative agencies and their execution of the laws of the country.  

In 1970, the Reorganization Act made the standing committees of each house responsible for monitoring the laws implemented in their areas. |