



The US Capitol building

DID YOU KNOW?
In the US Senate cafeteria, the Senate bean soup has been on the menu nearly every day since 1904.

Voting begins in Georgia



In the undecided race for a US Senate seat from Georgia, Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker will face each other in a runoff election on December 6. When *The Week Junior* went to press on November 29, more than 400,000 people had already cast their ballots in early voting.

Congress faces busy year-end schedule

After Thanksgiving, the US Congress returned to work to complete what is called a lame-duck session. This is the period between Election Day and the start of the next session in January.

What is happening?

Lawmakers face pressure to act on several major legislative priorities. Democrats currently control both the Senate and House of Representatives and want to move fast before the next session, when Republicans will take control of the House. At that point, the government will be divided and it will be more difficult to push their priorities forward.

What are the priorities in the Senate?

One top priority is the Respect for Marriage Act, which guarantees federal recognition of any same-

sex marriage that is legal in the state where it took place. As *The Week Junior* went to press, the Senate was voting on the bill and expected to pass it. It will then go to the House, where it is also expected to pass, and to President Joe Biden to be signed into law. The Senate may also vote on the Electoral Count Act, which would make it more difficult for a certified Presidential election to be overturned. This bill is supported by members of both parties in the Senate, and the House will also need to take action in order for it to move forward.

What are the priorities in the House?

The House will work with the Senate to approve a spending bill that funds the US government for the year ahead. The two political parties disagree on some proposed items in the bill. Democrats

want more money for Ukraine to defend itself against Russia and for the battle against Covid-19. Some Republicans object to additional funding for Ukraine, and many oppose funding for the pandemic. Lawmakers have until December 16 to agree on the bill. The House must also work with the Senate to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, which funds the US military.

What will happen next?

Members of Congress are scheduled to conduct business until December 15 in the House and December 21 in the Senate. The chambers may extend their sessions if there is unfinished business, but historically members have returned to their home states before December 25. The next Congress will begin work on January 3.



WORD OF THE WEEK

MOVIE

It's easy to forget the huge impact that movies made when they emerged as popular entertainment in the early 20th century. "Movie" is short for a "moving" or "motion" picture, and the word "cinema" is also about moving images. Cinema was named after the Greek *kinēma*, meaning "movement."



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

December 7, 1842

New York Philharmonic holds concert

On December 7, 1842, the New York Philharmonic, the first major US symphony orchestra, held its first concert for 600 people in New York City. The concert lasted three hours and opened with Ludwig van Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, which had been played in the US only once before. This year, for the first time ever, more women than men were musicians in the symphony, 45 to 44.



A New York Philharmonic rehearsal this year