LBJ and the *Great Society*

As you have seen and heard again and again in discussions of American presidents, none matched Lyndon Johnson’s skills as chief legislator. He could work more effectively with Congress than any other president in our history. Thus the incredible results of the 89th Congressional session (1964-66). He won congressional approval for 58% of his proposals in 1964, 69% in 1965, and 56% in 1966, compared to 37% for Eisenhower in 1957 and just 27% for JFK in 1963. In the early days of his presidency, Republicans complained about the “Xerox Congress,” or the “three-B Congress: bullied, badgered, and brainwashed,” but they found themselves powerless against LBJ’s legislative power. The 89th left behind the most productive law-making record in American history. The list of their accomplishments is staggering—-----not only securing landmark civil rights, health, education, and welfare measures but many, many more including the first major environmental laws, anti-nativism reforms, restrictions on government surveillance of citizens and freedom of information requirements. Look through the list below to get a full sense of the amazing steps taken during this short period: