Additional Questions on Congressional Moments and Primary Sources

1. We’re accustomed today to not allowing children to work in factories, but how revolutionary do you think this change was for people at that time? Do you think the law approved by Congress was popular with people at that time or one that most people would have opposed? Where would you look for evidence to help you answer this question?

2. Construct a timeline for passage of women's suffrage. Why did it take Congress (and then the states) so long to approve the constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote? Do you think Members of Congress were just more interested in other matters or did their delay reflect serious differences in opinion from people back home on how this issue should be handled?

3. Of the various issues covered in the opening Congressional Moment videos, which of the measures passed by Congress do you think have had the most lasting impact on our country? Do you think historians might have serious debates about the value of some of them? Explain.

4. What were the main arguments made by Members of Congress opposed to the Marshall Plan? Do you think they are making any good points? If some good points can often be made by people on both sides of an issue, how do you think a member of Congress sorts it all out and decides how to vote?

Assess the value of the various types of primary source materials. Which types do you find the most useful, persuasive? Explain.