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## Laurel Springs

There are various presidential addresses as well as Supreme Court rulings that have had an enormous impact and began to change the people of America's lives starting in the mid-20th century. Not only do these rulings of the Supreme Court and addresses of presidents have an impact on the way the United States is run but also change the lives of the people living in America.

During his inauguration on Jan 20, 1961, President John F. Kennedy delivered a speech that still inspires the United States 50 years later. He was the youngest man ever elected to lead the United States as well as being the foremost Roman Catholic to be on oath as the president of the nation. In his speech, President Kennedy challenged the American youths to strain and ask themselves what they could do for their country not what the state could do for them. The president's words 'Ask Not' changed how many Americans youth view public service as many became inspired to work in ensuring they better their country. More than 50 years have passed since President Kennedy delivered the speech and its impacts are still evident amongst many Americans. For example, those who heard his words and acted have thrived well in their careers of choice. Today, President Kennedy's words are repeated even in schools and young generations have grown up putting the words into considerations. The president's speech inspired many, and its strength and impacts have continued to be evident for the past years. His words still click up to date, and young generations have grown up knowing the words and have contributed hugely to the public service. This contribution has led to the economic growth of the entire nation as well as changing the lives of many of the American people.

In 1954, the United States vast portions had isolated schools on race matters. This segregation was legalized by Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 which stated that facilities belonging to the public and that were segregated were legitimate as long as the black, as well as facilities of the whites, were equivalent. However, the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education (1954) solidly held that segregation of students who were in community schools by race dishonored the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Although the verdict made by the Supreme Court failed in entirely unifying education of the public, it put the United States Constitution on the verge of equality in race. The resolution also spurred the promising movement of civil rights into a whole complete revolution. Since then, the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States has spilled over to the entire nation. The decision has spilled into areas of law as well as administrative areas. Considering that the population of the United States is mainly constituted of the Black Americans and whites, the ruling in 1954 changed many lives of American people. According to scholars, the decision by the Supreme Court in Brown V. Board marked the start of the current movement of civic rights. The decision also hugely instituted a watershed moment in the country's fight for equality in races. People in the United States are equally able to attend the same schools, vote for their leaders and face law despite their skin colors. Justice in the fields of education has made people from different races compete for chances in the public service without discrimination. Leadership has also been able to take the same route as leaders are being chosen on the basis of merit and not on the races.

Another Supreme Court decision that changed the lives of the American people is the one made in United States V. Nixon. The decision was made in 1974. All the eight justices of the Supreme Court ruled against President Nixon. The ruling limited the power the president of the

U.S possessed by then. The powers of the head of the United States were limited as part of the fall-out from the disreputable Watergate scandal. The president seemed to have the idea that he was above all court processes except for impeachment. As a result, each justice of the Supreme Court rejected the president's claim that he was immune from judicial process. The impact of the decision had a lasting effect. After the verdict was passed by the court, President Nixon resigned. The decision changed the lives of Americans as up to now, American presidents are aware that they are not in any way above the laws of the country and they may answer to the Supreme Court for the crimes they commit.

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United States v.					
Nixon, 1974					

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