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Rally at the state capitol in Tallahassee, Florida on Wednesday

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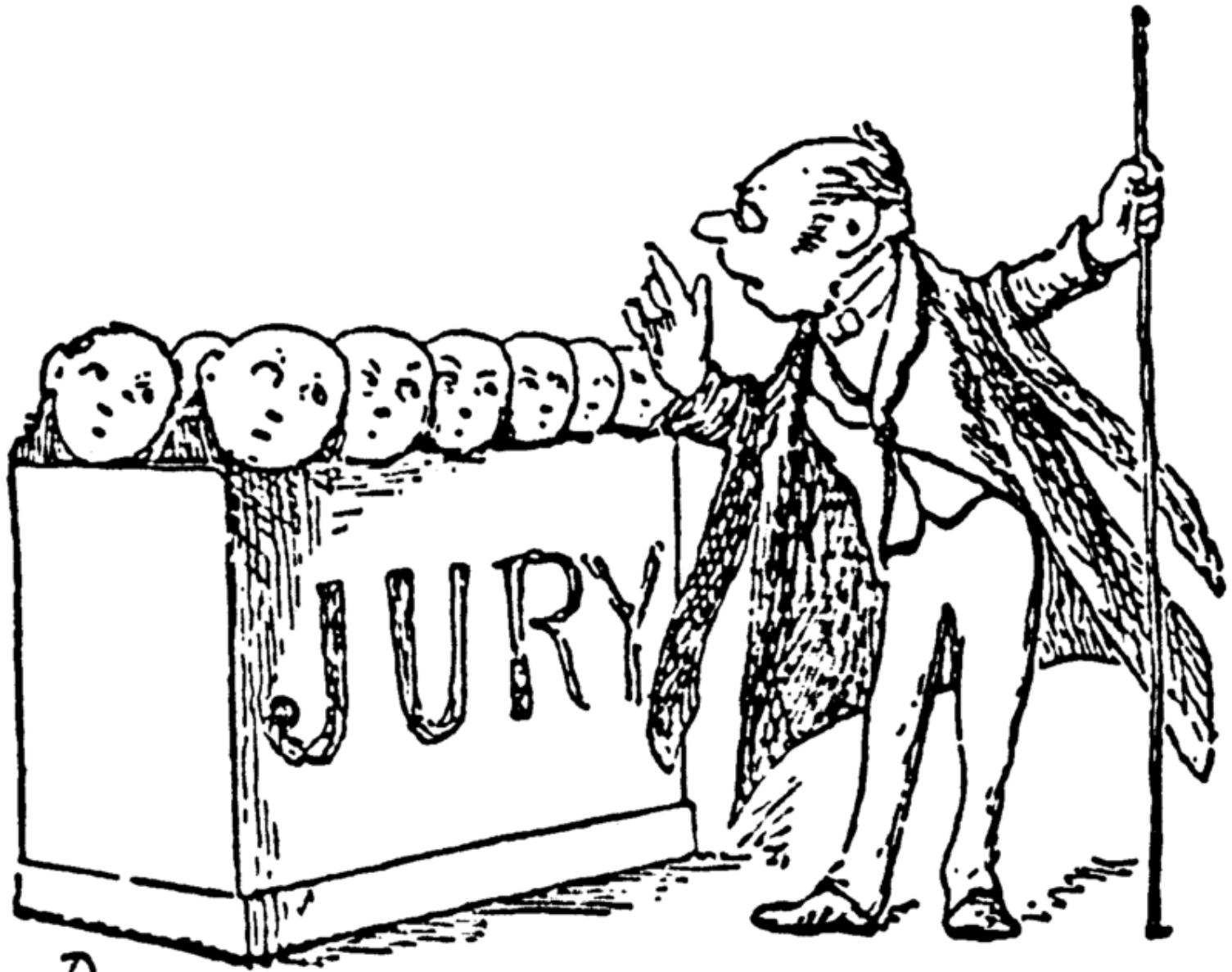
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A Commitment to Freedom

- The listing of the general rights of the people can be found in the first ten amendments in the Constitution, also known as the **Bill of Rights**.
- The 13th and 14th amendments have also added to the Constitution's guarantees of personal freedom.

In general, **civil liberties** are protections *against government*.

They are guarantees of the safety of persons, opinions, and property from arbitrary acts of government.

The term **civil rights** is sometimes reserved for those *positive acts of government* that seek to make constitutional guarantees a reality for all people.

Federalism and Individual Rights

The Bill of Rights

- The most famous of the Constitution's guarantees originally applied only to the National Government, not the government of the States.
- The Supreme Court held that the Bill of Rights only restricts the National Government in *Barron v. Baltimore*, in 1833.

The Modifying Effect of the 14th Amendment

- The 14th Amendment's **Due Process Clause** provides that no State can “deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law...”.
- However, to include rights under that heading, the Supreme Court had to define the rights on a case by case basis, called **the process of incorporation**.