

are shared by a rapidly growing number of thinkers." In consequence, new "modes of thought that belong to the realm of natural science" have for the first time in human history presented us with the opportunity to study human culture in a truly objective manner, and so potentially ward off the forces that have destroyed all earlier civilizations."

(1) J. Monod, "Chance and Necessity; An essay on the Natural Philosophy of Modern Biology" New York: Knopf (1971)

John T. Thompson

JOHN BURTON

The Trojan Horse

Adam Smith Institute, Leesburg, Va., 1979

In *The Trojan Horse* John Burton shows how British unions have exploited their links with the Labour Party to such a degree that the legal privileges and immunities they have obtained make them "exempt from the ordinary law of the land."

Many commentators see the growth of union power as the result of increasing economic interdependence — and hence greater strike threat power available to the unions. Burton argues that this theory is in error.

Union power in Britain is better explained by the success of the unions in obtaining changes in the law. In the twentieth century the unions have moved into the political arena by establishing a political party to represent their own vested interests — the Labour Party. Through their support of this party, the unions have not only been able to have enormous influence over successive Labour governments, but have also been able to frustrate Conservative administrations.

Political levies imposed by unions on their members — whether they are Labour Party supporters or not — now constitute the bulk of Labour Party funds. The unions also sponsor over 100 Labour members of Parliament and command an overwhelming majority of votes at the Party's annual conference and on its National Executive Committee.

Unions have used this power to block all attempts at reform by either Conservative governments or by elements in Labour governments. Furthermore, they have forced Parliament to

stand idle amid terrifying violence by mobs of "pickets."

The Trojan Horse of trade unionism has been dragged inside the walls of British democracy, on the supposition that if union power were appeased it would become responsible. Britain is now reaping the consequences.

As Madsen Pirie of the Adam Smith Institute writes in his introduction:

John Burton's study shows quite clearly that this problem has not been solved in Britain. Far from setting into an equilibrium relationship with their society, the British labor unions have been engaged in a progressive and accelerating accumulation of power. It may be that this power has receded slightly from its peak of 1974/1975, but there is no evidence that this minor setback is anything but an immediate response to adverse economic conditions in a peculiar electoral situation, or that the power will not again start to accumulate.

WALTER J. RAYMOND

Dictionary of Politics

Brunswick Publishing Company, Lawrenceville, Va.(1979)

Author Walter Raymond, Professor of Political Science and Department Chairman at St. Paul's College, has produced a massive 825 page "dictionary" which is encyclopedic in its dimensions. Besides entertaining and stimulating the reader with the author's own original comments on the 4,600 items included between its cover, this book comprises easy-to-read and easy-to-understand, factual information about American and foreign political systems, processes, and institutions, all illustrated by numerous charts, graphs, tables and historical documents.

In addition, there are entries relating to specific figures in the U.S. political and legal world, as well as data relating to economic affairs, raw material resources, and demographic problems. A useful addition to the library of every serious students of political science, which should certainly be on the shelves of every college library.