

political book notes

*Public affairs books
to be published in March*

Alive in the City: Memoir of an Ex-Commissioner. August Heckscher. Scribner's, \$8.95. An innocent establishmentarian encounters the New York City bureaucracy. A pleasant but slightly smug and not very enlightening memoir.

The American Condition. Richard N. Goodwin. Doubleday, \$10. Goodwin adds an admirable depth, rigor, and precision to analyses of the inability of our economic and political institutions to increase individual freedom, which he defines in broadest terms to include those qualities of community and control over one's circumstances often felt to be missing in the modern bureaucratic state. To the extent that he sees a potential source of change, it is in a sharpened sense of "the immense and increasing gap between our physical capacity to increase freedom and the conditions of modern life." This is a serious book and worthy of close attention, yet it would have been much better had it been free of an unpleasant clay-tablets tone. Goodwin displays this when he gives virtually no factual illustration or evidence for his arguments.

The American People: A Noted Journalist Explores the Findings of the 1970 Census. E. J. Kahn, Jr. Weybright & Talley, \$8.95. An alternately mind-numbing and fascinating survey of the results of the 1970 Census.

Choosing Our King: Powerful Symbols in Presidential Politics. Michael Novak. Macmillan, \$7.95. This book is about the role of symbols in presidential politics. The author's thesis: "American civilization is best understood as a set of secular religious systems." Novak continually comes to the brink of breathtaking insight only to back away. Again and again where one example would clarify, it's not there; where two examples are needed, there's only one. Either Novak had a very undemanding editor or he is the kind of writer who, when asked to explain, invariably answers, "Oh, that would take another book if I went into it." Still, even though he's infuriating, Novak's mind is suggestive enough to make the book worth reading.

Connally: The Adventures of Big Bad John. Charles Ashman. Morrow, \$7.95. Some

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class of 1974 and
an editor of the
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interesting information about Connally is spoiled by comments like: "Can a poor boy from Texas find happiness in Washington, D.C.? Will the former Secretary of the Treasury become bedeviled by those who suffered his economic impositions, or is Big John just a phase we're going through?"

Cold Winter, Cold War. Robert G. Kaiser. Stein & Day, \$8.95. One hopes the revisionist historians will read this excellent account of the year 1946-47 when the Truman Doctrine took shape. Most of the material concerns Britain and America, but there is an occasional fascinating glimpse of the other side, including this report of an interview Richard C. Hottelet of CBS conducted with Maxim Litvinov in 1946 while Litvinov was still serving in the Soviet foreign ministry:

Hottelet asked Litvinov how he saw the prospects for East-West cooperation. "The outlook is bad," Litvinov replied. "It seems as though the differences between East and West have gone too far to be reconciled...." Why? Litvinov cited two reasons. First: "There has been a return in Russia to the outmoded concept of security in terms of territory—the more you've got, the safer you are." And second: "As far as I'm concerned, the root cause is the ideological conception prevailing here [i.e. in Moscow] that conflict between the Communist and capitalist worlds is inevitable." Hottelet asked what the result would be if the Western powers acquiesced to the then-current Soviet demands regarding Trieste, the Italian colonies, the Danube.... Litvinov replied, "It would lead to the West being faced, after a more-or-less short time, with the next series of demands."

... Hottelet did not use the interview at the time, fearing that Stalin would not forgive Litvinov.

Corporate Power and Social Change: The Politics of the Life Insurance Industry. Karen Orren. Johns Hopkins, \$10. With President Johnson looking on at the White House in September 1967, the Life Insurance Association of America announced that its member companies had pledged to invest \$1 billion to bring housing and employment to the nation's slums. This book tells how the program really worked out. The prose is somewhat academic, but the story is important, and the author's analysis is often brilliant.

Critique of Legal Order: Crime Control in Capitalist Society. Richard Quinney. Little, Brown, \$7.95.

Dateline America: Dispatch from an Altering Nation. Bennett Kremen. Dial, \$7.95.

The Deep South States of America: People, Politics, and Power in the Seven States of the Deep South. Neal R. Peirce. Norton, \$12.95.

Dying in the Sun. Donn Pearce. Charterhouse, \$6.95.

If Britain Had Fallen. Norman Langmate. Stein & Day, \$8.95. A forceful reminder of

how close a call 1940 was and of how we all might react if the Himmlers (or even their milder Haldeman cousins) got control. Based on a television series, but better than that sounds.

To Irrigate a Wasteland. John W. Macy, Jr. California, \$5.75. Evidence to substantiate the rumor that there are more people writing about public television than viewers watching it. This book is a reprint of a series of lectures Macy gave after resigning in 1972 as the first president of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The lectures are well-intentioned, deadly dull, and contain nothing you haven't heard before.

Intellectual Skywriting: Literary Politics and The New York Review of Books. Philip Nobile. Charterhouse, \$7.95.

Just a Country Lawyer: A Biography of Senator Sam Ervin. Paul R. Clancy. Indiana, \$8.50. Clancy is a biographer of "the Ervin house was almost always filled with the smell of something cooking" school. The book contains some interesting snippets from "Senator Sam's" career: he was friends with Thomas Wolfe in college; he led the fight against an anti-evolution bill in the North Carolina legislature a few months before the Scopes trial; and in 1946 he spent seven months in the U. S. House of Representatives filling the unexpired term of his younger brother, Joe, who committed suicide. But it says nothing new about Watergate and is little help in unraveling the contradictions of a man in love with the Constitution but oblivious to the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Kingdom of Oil: The Middle East—Its People and Its Power. Ray Vicker. Scribner's, \$7.95.

Lights on in the House of the Dead: A Prison Diary. Daniel Berrigan. Doubleday, \$6.95.

Management: Tasks, Responsibilities, Practices. Peter F. Drucker. Harper & Row, \$15.

Margin of Life: Population and Poverty in the Americas. Cornell Capa, J. Mayone Stycos. Grossman, \$15/\$7.50.

Micronesia at the Crossroads. Carl Heine. Hawaii, \$10/\$2.95.

The Nazi Movement in the United States, 1924-1941. Sander A. Diamond. Cornell, \$15.

Neighborhood Health Centers: What Do Demonstration Projects Demonstrate? Robert M. Hollister, et al. Lexington, \$14. In 1965 the Office of Economic Opportunity began a program designed to combine anti-poverty efforts with new ideas in health care. By the time OEO was nearly abolished last year, more than 100 of these Neighborhood Health Centers had been

Rexford G. Tugwell and Thomas E. Cronin

have edited what *Publishers Weekly* calls "A wide-ranging and much-needed group of essays by respected political scientists and students of the presidency," including Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., James David Barber, C. Herman Pritchett, and many others. Their insights will trigger much controversy about the future of presidential power and the abuse of American democracy. \$8.95

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established. This collection of articles, mainly from academic journals, vividly demonstrates how varied the centers' records have been, but it eventually makes a convincing case that the idea is worth pursuing.

The Political Stage: American Drama and Theater of the Great Depression. Malcolm Goldstein. Oxford, \$13.95.

Power to Persuade: Mass Media and the News. Robert Cirino. Bantam, \$1.25.

The Private Government of Public Money. Hugh Heclo, Aaron Wildavsky. California, \$15.75.

Religion and Revolution. Guenter Lewy. Oxford, \$17.50.

The Rights of the Poor. Sylvia Law (An ACLU Handbook). Avon, \$.95.

The Rights of Suspects. Oliver Rosengart (An ACLU Handbook). Avon, \$.95.

Secrecy and Foreign Policy. Thomas M. Franck, Edward Weisband, ed. Oxford, \$15. This useful collection of essays covers government secrecy in Canada, England, and the United States. The author-editors conclude "unauthorized information will remain democracy's principal antidote to unlimited, highly concentrated power."

The Secrets Business. Stephen Barlay. T. Y. Crowell, \$7.95. A melodramatic account of

international industrial espionage. But, even allowing for the exaggerations of fact promised by the authors' style, one is convinced that decent businessmen should change the locks on their safes.

The Security Council: A Study in Adolescence. Richard Hiscocks. Free Press, \$8.95.

The Seventeenth Degree. Mary McCarthy. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, \$7.95.

The Shaping of Urban Society. Janet Roebuck. Scribner's, \$8.95.

State and Society: A Reader in Comparative Political Sociology. Reinhard Bendix, ed. California, \$17.50/\$5.95.

Stories Cops Only Tell Each Other. Gene Radano. Stein & Day, \$6.95.

Tender Loving Greed. Mary Adelaide Mendelson. Knopf, \$6.95. Ms. Mendelson's article on nursing homes in the January *Washington Monthly* was based on research for this book.

Them and Us: Struggles for a Rank-and-File Union. James J. Matles, James Higgins. Prentice-Hall, \$6.95.

Three to Get Ready: The Education of a White Family in Urban Schools. Lois M. Stalvey. Morrow, \$7.95.

Treaties and Alliances of the World. Keesing Research Reports. Scribner's, \$12.50.

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