

In Re Alger Hiss. Edith Tiger, ed. Hill and Wang, \$15/\$7.95.

The Judiciary in a Democratic Society. Leonard J. Theberge, ed. Lexington, \$15.

The Man from Ida Grove. Harold Hughes with Dick Schneider. Word Books, \$10.95. In a book obviously designed more as religious testimony than anything else, Harold Hughes comes across as a thoroughly decent man, who is sincere in his belief. Even those who don't sympathize with his religious feelings will be fascinated by some of the political anecdotes in his book. There is, for example, this telephone conversation with Lyndon Johnson:

"I walked over and picked up the phone, my voice tight: 'Hello, Mr. President.'

"Governor?"

"Yes."

"We're all having trouble with that delegate of yours on the platform committee. She's not going along with our position. You all are going to have to do something about that."

"This was the hard side of Lyndon B. Johnson."

"Well, Mr. President. I don't like to bring undue pressure on my people. She is a civil liberties person and will advocate a strong plank on equal rights, opportunities, the whole works."

"There was a moment of silence, then: 'Governor, I expect you to control these things; when we get people on these platform committees we expect them to do what we want them to do. Now I want you to take care of it.'

"I felt my hackles rise. 'Mr. President, I'm not sure I can take care of it. I'm not at all sure if she'll do what I want her to do, even if I agreed with your position.'

"There was cold steel in his voice. 'Governor, I expect you to take care of it and I don't want to have any more problems with that woman.'"

—Charles Peters

My Lai Enquiry. Lt. Gen. W. R. Peers. Norton, \$12.95. Not an easy read, but a thorough account of the tragedy by the man who had the courage to blow the whistle.

Neither Athens nor Sparta? The American Service Academies in Transition. John P. Lovell. Indiana, \$12.95.

Public Nuisances. R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr. Basic, \$11.95.

Schooled to Order: A Social History of Public Schooling in the United States. David Nasaw. Oxford, \$13.95. This is, in the main, an impressive historical analysis of the "tracking system" in American education. Concentrating on three

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periods—the early 19th century, when the idea of mass schooling took hold; the turn-of-the-century reform in high school education; and the expansion of community colleges and “open admissions” in the 1960s—Nasaw reveals one common theme: all of these institutions, which were supposed to sort out students on grounds of merit, actually reinforced pre-determined sortings, based on social class. The children of workmen were sent to vocational school rather than high schools, to manual-skills courses rather than academic ones, and finally to community colleges rather than four year universities.

The Richard Herrnstein school of hereditary intelligence would find this only natural, since (they argue) ability is inherited and is reflected in social standing. But Nasaw provides a number of convincing refutations, the most powerful of which is the GI Bill experience after World War II. Under the bill, many people who would not otherwise have attended college were admitted, and overall they did better than those who would have gone to college anyway.

Nasaw's analysis finally lacks two elements. There isn't, anywhere in this

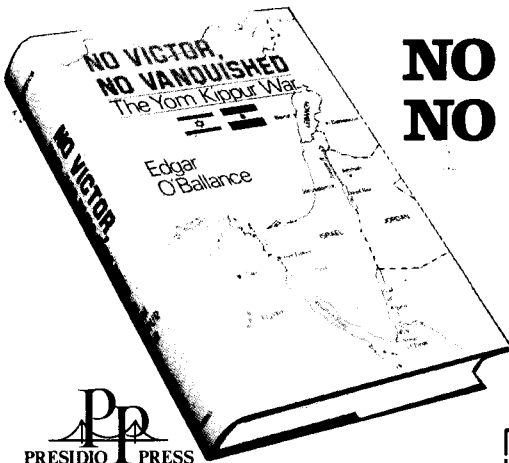
book, a look at the mechanics of the sorting—just how colleges choose the people they do and what qualities the entrance examinations reward. The other is Nasaw's lack of a hard-headed sense of what kind of competition he would like to see. When Nasaw says of bright working-class students that they will “expose the myth of the meritocracy by succeeding in higher education—despite the odds—and then demand the jobs associated with academic success,” he suggests that the only reason for worry is that too few blue-collar children now end up as corporate lawyers, while the structure of those professions, and their connection with academic pedigrees, may be the real enemy.

—James Fallows

The Textile Wrangle: Conflict in Japanese-American Relations, 1969-1971. I.M. Destrur, Haruhiro Fukui, Hideo Sato. Cornell, \$19.50.

There is a Fountain: The Autobiography of a Civil-Rights Lawyer. Conrad J. Lynn. Lawrence Hill, \$10.

To Set the Record Straight: The Break-In, the Tapes, the Conspirators, the Pardon. John J. Sirica. Norton, \$15.



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