

POLITICAL BOOKNOTES

Clear Understandings. *Ronald Goldfarb, James Raymond. Random House, \$8.95.*

Eugene V. Debs: Citizen and Socialist. *Nick Salvatore. Univ. of Illinois, \$24.95.* A comprehensive and readable biography of America's premier socialist. Of particular interest is Salvatore's account of the intense rivalry for control of the burgeoning U.S. labor movement between Debs—an earnest but impractical idealist who exhausted himself during presidential campaigns by trying to sleep on his feet rather than take a berth in a Pullman sleeping car—and the more calculating Samuel Gompers. Gompers was unwilling to risk his own power to join Debs during the 1895 Pullman strike; its subsequent failure landed Debs in jail and set the labor movement back many years.

—William Wilcox

FEDfind: Your Key to Finding Federal Government Information. *Richard D'Aleo. ICUC Press, \$9.95.*

F.D.R.: An Intimate History. *Nathan Miller. Doubleday, \$22.50.*

How Life Insurance Companies Rob You And What You Can Do About It. *Walter S. Kenton. Random House, \$13.95.* This book justifies your worst fears about life insurance. Kenton, himself a successful salesman (he detests the word "agent" because it makes the profession seem more honorable than it is) describes the various gimmicks his ilk employ to cheat their customers while earning hefty commissions. His suggestion for beating the con if one still insists on buying life insurance? Buy renewable-term insurance—if you can find someone who will sell it to you.

—W.W.

Is the U.S. True to Its Friends: A View From the Former Ambassador of Free China. *James Shen. Acropolis, \$14.95.*

The Last Hero: Wild Bill Donovan. *Anthony Cave Brown. Times Books, \$19.95.*

The Left, The Right, and The Jews. *W.D. Rubinstein. Universe Books, \$18.20.*

Life and Death on the Corporate Battlefield. *Paul Soloman, Thomas Friedman. Simon & Schuster, \$13.95.* Another of the good books that have recently appeared that try to go beyond the traditional clichés about big business. The authors show how large corporations are not always powerful or even smart; particularly revealing is the account of how a small competitor used Proctor & Gamble's size to outfox it.

—Phil Keisling

Lost Honor. *John Dean. Stratford Press, \$15.95.* Disjointed and rambling, this story of the author's life after prison is not nearly the book *Blind Ambition* was. Still, for Watergate aficionados, there are more than enough morsels to make it recommended reading. The author abandons David Gergen as his candidate for Deep Throat in favor of Alexander Haig, and his reasons for doing so are reasonably persuasive. He just about nails down the case first made by Marjorie Boyd in these pages that Gerald Ford committed perjury to conceal his role in preventing a Congressional investigation of Watergate before the 1972 election. And he shows how Howard Baker and his minority counsel Fred Thompson served Nixon's interests during the Ervin committee hearings by trying to divert attention from the White House to the CIA.

—Charles Peters

Megatrends. *John Naisbitt. Warner Books, \$15.50.* This best-seller reads like a book-length *USA Today*. Some of the message is painfully obvious (exercise is in), and some of questionable presci-

ence (can America really survive by "buying Computer Software Inc., selling U.S. Steel?") Naisbitt fails to acknowledge the genuine dangers of too complete a shift from an industrial to an information/service sector economy; the prospect of blackmail by foreign manufacturers, for instance, cannot be discounted.

But hidden amid banalities are enough eye-opening nuggets and observations to keep the pages turning in this relentlessly optimistic look at the future.

—Ronald Brownstein

PACs Americana. *Edward Roeder. Sunshine Services, \$200.* This weighty volume lists the political inclinations, economic interests, and treasurers for each of the more than 3,000 political action committees in America. What it doesn't give—no doubt because this would require an additional dozen volumes—are the specific beneficiaries and contributors for each PAC. So while the hard-core politico may find it interesting to know that the American Tunaboat Association Political Action Committee gave \$1,200 to Democrats in 1980, one strongly suspects that the only people who'll be interested in making this \$200 investment are candidates seeking a handy guide for soliciting contributions.

—Teresa Riordan

The Music of The Laws. *Daniel Kornstein. Everest House, \$14.95.*

The 1980 Census: Policymaking Amid Turbulence. *Ian Mitroff, Richard Mason, Vincent Barabba. Lexington, \$29.95.*

The Partners: Inside America's Most Powerful Law Firms. *James B. Stewart. Simon and Schuster, \$16.95.* An extraordinary reporting job that unfortunately suffers from an excess of detail. Stewart amply demonstrates the power and influence of the nation's leading law

firms; for example, when Reagan's new anti-trust chief, William Baxter, asked to be briefed on the IBM case, he didn't call on the government's own attorneys, but on IBM's counsel, Thomas Barr of Cravath, Swaine, and Moore. Yet for all the moments of high-stakes legal drama, what's most revealing about this intimate look at the nation's super-firms is how banal and uninteresting so much of their work really is.

—P.K.

Powering Civilization: The Complete Energy Reader. *James Ridgeway, ed. Pantheon, \$12.95/\$22.50.*

The Presidency and Public Policy: The Four Arenas of Political Power. *Robert J. Spitzer. Univ. of Alabama Press, \$20.*

The Reflective Practitioner: How Professionals Think in Action. *Donald A. Schon. Basic Books, \$19.95.*

Social Justice and Public Policy. *A.B. Atkinson. MIT Press, \$37.50.*

Sunday Best 2: The Observer. *Donald Thelford, ed. Victor Gollancz/David & Charles, \$17.50.*

Tax Free. *Mark Skousen. S & S, \$12.95.*

U.S. Defense Planning: A Critique. *John M. Collins. Westview Press, \$30/\$11.95.*

Without Precedent: The Story of the Death of McCarthyism. *John G. Adams. Norton, \$16.95.*

Working Together. *John Simmons, William J. Mares. Knopf, \$15.*

(continued from "Tilting at Windmills," page 11)

"The evidence that the major—although certainly not the exclusive—thrust of the current generation is toward extreme egotistical individualism is abundant. But the shift in values is not absolute. In all eras—and in most individuals—selfishness and compassion co-exist. It is the mix of the two that varies. There is a tendency for the former to be more prevalent among the affluent, particularly if they are still on the rise or their positions are threatened. . .

"Seen in this light, the basic difference between the dominant values of the 1930s

and the 1980s is that much of the middle class in the earlier period identified with the poor, whereas the bulk of Middle America now aspires to become like the rich. The Joads of *The Grapes of Wrath* sought survival and a decent life; the Joneses seek not merely to keep up with each other, but to emulate the Rockefellers to whatever extent possible.

"There actually was a 'moral majority' in the 1930s; it is no more in the 1980s. The tone of America in the Depression years was set by the truly needy; today it is set by the truly greedy."

—Charles Peters



A leading authority on criminal justice tackles one of today's most hotly debated topics—the insanity defense—and offers controversial recommendations for reform

NORVAL MORRIS Madness and the Criminal Law

Morris keenly analyzes the relationship between individual autonomy and the powers of the criminal and mental health laws to incarcerate. His argument is enhanced by two remarkable fictional chapters on the distinction between moral and criminal guilt and on the problem of involuntary conduct.

"A highly important and useful discussion. . . . As usual, Morris combines liveliness, creativity, and comprehensiveness." —Francis A. Allen, University of Michigan Law School

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