
Editor's Corner

Political science, with all its substantive, methodological, national and regional diversity is doing extremely well if judged by the events of the last week in August 1988. For the first time in its history the International Political Science Association's World Congress was held in the United States, APSA its host. The Congress surpassed all previous records of program development and participation, national representation, intellectual diversity, and endowment. The World Congress overlapped with the APSA Annual Meeting which was the largest meeting in the history of the profession.

It was appropriate that the week that included the 14th World Congress of the International Political Science Association and the APSA's Annual Meeting should begin with Gabriel Almond's presentation on the state of the political science discipline in the United States. Almond's presentation is the subject of this issue's symposium. He divides the discipline into schools and sects separated by their respective notions of power and methods of inquiry. Almond identifies the strengths and vulnerabilities of the principal divisions within the discipline: the soft left, the hard right, the soft right and the hard left. He observes that most political scientists "would find themselves uncomfortable seated at these outlying tables." Almond affirms the disciplinary history of the mainstream political scientists, the ideological liberal to moderate and methodologically eclectic.

Features

The best attended panels at the World Congress and Annual Meeting were those touching upon the 1988 presidential elections. The "Features" section of this issue also focuses on the 1988 elections. Alan Abramowitz throws caution to the wind

and sets forth a new model for predicting the outcome of the presidential elections. Relying on three explanatory variables: presidential popularity, economic conditions and timing of the election, Abramowitz predicts a virtual dead heat.

Buell and Maus examine the elections through the pens of editorial cartoonists. They show the consequences of candidates that run afoul of the "character issue," but affirm that cartoons "are rejected or transformed into favorable images by the candidate's stalwart supporters, received and recalled with delight by his opponents, and ignored or quickly forgotten by the inattentive."

Not so easily forgotten is the process of vice presidential selection. Michael Nelson places the selection of Lloyd Bentsen by the Democrats and Dan Quayle by the Republicans into the context of the history of vice presidential selection. He demonstrates the greater weight attributed over the years to two governance criteria: competence of the nominee to succeed the president, and loyalty to the president's policies.

Jo Freeman describes the relative absence of conflict among women attending the 1988 Democratic Convention. Representing some dozen organizations, women appear to be satisfied with the Democratic party's platform, or at least are willing to set aside differences in the interest of bringing about a Democratic party victory in 1988.

Electoral outcomes are also the concern of Piven and Cloward as they evaluate the possibilities for enacting national voter registration reform through the Universal Voter Registration Act. Voter registration in the United States is 10 to 20 percentage points lower than voter registration in other western democracies. According to Piven and Cloward, existing registration practices systematically suppress low-

income and minority turnout. Reform will come about, however, only after new groups enter the electorate. The conditions for this are present, they conclude, at the state and local levels through programs facilitating voter registration.

The Profession

Donald Blackmer offers an insightful intellectual and personal portrayal of APSA President Lucian Pye. From Shansi Province in China to MIT on the banks of the Charles River, Pye has followed a direct path in which he has sought to explain the cultural differences that inform the politics of nations.

Reprinted in the "Profession" section is the third annual John Gaus Lecture by James Fesler of Yale University. In "The State and Its Study," Fesler argues that administration is an integral part of government, it cannot be understood apart from it. Thus the study of public administration is an inseparable part of the political science discipline.

Patterson, Ripley and Trish detail eight decades of the history of the *American Political Science Review*, a history of growing intellectual maturity and managerial

complexity. Their insights into the publication of scholarly research are joined by Donald Chisholm's telling, and often personal, account of getting one's first academic appointment. The first in a two-part article, Chisholm leaves nothing to doubt as he discusses everything from the job candidate's first letter of introduction to the last act of negotiating salary.

International Political Science

The theme of the 14th World Congress was "Toward a Global Political Science." The evolution of disciplines separated by geography and approach has increased since the beginnings of the discipline in North America and Europe. The World Congress organizers explored opportunities for and obstacles against making the discipline global. David McKay's article on European political science describes the organizational, linguistic and intellectual origins of European political science, and does not hold out great promise for the convergence of disciplines.

RJPH
September 1988