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# Editor's Corner

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On Tuesday, June 7, voters in California were asked to consider two proposals for state campaign financing reform, Proposition 68 or the more limited Proposition 73. Proposition 68 limited individual campaign contributions to \$1,000 per candidate per election, as well as imposed spending limits on candidates for the State Assembly and Senate. By evening's end, both propositions won voter approval. Because Proposition 73 received more votes than Proposition 68, it took precedence. Hereafter, individual campaign contributions in California races will be limited to \$1,000 per fiscal year, though no spending limitations will be imposed. The California vote immediately led to speculation that voter initiated campaign reform might spread to other states in much the same way the success of California's Proposition 13 spawned a national antitax movement a decade ago.

The California propositions are two recent examples of a little understood phenomenon, direct democracy, the subject of this issue's symposium, "Taking the Initiative." David Magleby's article provides an overview of "direct democracy." Magleby helps to explain the 70 referenda, constitutional amendments and initiatives, for example, that were on ballots in the 1987 election campaign. Through these voter-initiated devices, voters in Virginia authorized a state lottery, voters in Texas legalized pari-mutuel betting, voters in Maine refused to shut down the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant, and the voters of the city of Boulder, Colorado prohibited employment and housing discrimination against homosexuals.

Opinion polls, according to Cronin, show that voters want to be able to remove officials. What this means in real terms is best demonstrated by Paula McClain in her article on the recall and eventual impeachment of Arizona's Gov-

ernor Mechem. Beginning with the framers of the Constitution, not everyone has been unqualified in their acceptance of direct democracy. Artterton's discussion of teledemocracy experiments concludes that direct democracy can expand the scope of representative government without supplanting it.

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## Features

Collaborative writing is an art, and has been best described by Aaron Wildavsky in a 1986 *PS* article (Summer 1986: 237-248). Never an easy undertaking, how much more difficult is the task when the would-be collaborators are separated by culture, language and ideology. Jerry Briscoe describes the process of putting together a single edited volume, *Breakthrough: Emerging New Thinking*, by Soviet and American scholars. His interviews with the participants reveal how carefully crafted cooperation can bridge intellectual and ideological differences over time.

The unflappable A Wuffle shares with us another of his insights into political behavior, and identifies the "minimax blame" voting strategy. Also in this issue's Feature section, the Committee for Party Renewal presents its latest set of conclusions and recommendations for promoting political parties; Anne Permaloff and Carl Grafton review the three premier social science software packages; and Dennis Hale shares personal insights into the work and person of Bertrand de Jouvenel.

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## The Profession

The Committee on the Status of Women of the Southern Political Science Association initiates in this issue of *PS* a biographical series, "Found Women: Pioneers in Southern Political Science," with

Dorothy Stetson's account of Hallie Farmer. Elizabeth Hughes Clark marks another milestone in the history of political science in the South with her chronicle of the establishment of the *Journal of Politics*.

John Bendix humorously explains the challenges of doing dissertation research abroad. If you are among the many who have perished with foreign libraries, had notes consumed by animals or data denied by officials, Bendix's article will ring a familiar bell. If you are among the many who are considering research abroad, go prepared by reading Bendix's article.

### Annual Meeting and World Congress Preview

Several articles in Association News detail features of the APSA annual meeting and IPSA World Congress. If you plan to attend the annual meeting take note of the change in time of the Presidential address as well as the hours of the book exhibit. If you also plan to attend the World Congress, a summary of the time schedule of the Congress is included in the International Political Science Section.

RJPH  
June 1988

CALL FOR PAPERS  
**SEVENTH PRESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE**  
**GERALD R. FORD**

38th President of the United States

*Restoring the Presidency*

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 7, 8, 1989

**Conference Director:** Bernard J. Firestone, *Associate Professor of Political Science*

The Conference Committee welcomes papers dealing with the life, career and Presidency of Gerald R. Ford. Included in the list of topics to be considered are:

Arms Control  
Congressional Career  
Détente: Helsinki and Beyond  
Fall of Vietnam  
Fight Against Energy Dependency  
Fight Against Inflation  
Foreign Policy Process  
Mayaguez Affair  
Middle East Peace Process

New York City Fiscal Crisis  
Organized Labor  
Pardon of Richard Nixon  
Policy Towards South Africa  
President and Congress  
Recession Politics  
Reforming the C.I.A.  
Selection as Vice President  
The 1976 Campaign

**Papers on other topics will also be considered**

A prospectus or letter of intent is requested by October 15, 1988. The deadline for submission of completed papers (in duplicate) and a one-page abstract is December 1, 1988. Selected papers will be published.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

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