

Editor's Corner

The Weak and Helpless

Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Jeffrey J. Schott give *PS* readers a glimpse of their work on the use of sanctions as a foreign policy tool. In their recently published *Economic Sanctions Reconsidered: History and Current Policy*, Hufbauer and Schott identify 103 cases since the start of World War I in which one or more countries have employed sanctions to achieve their foreign policy goals. (The U.S. was a perpetrator in two-thirds of these efforts.)

Hufbauer and Schott report here on some of their findings. In particular, they identify the circumstances under which sanctions are most likely to work, for example when the target country is "weak and helpless." Frequently, sanctions do not help accomplish foreign policy goals, and Hufbauer and Schott tell us why. Finally, these two scholars take the specific cases of U.S. sanctions applied against Nicaragua and South Africa and, based on their earlier findings, speculate on the probable impact the sanctions will have.

Senate Control

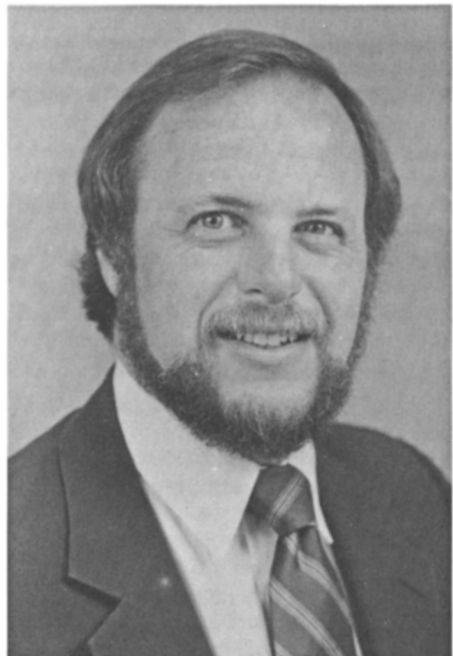
As for speculation here in Washington, perhaps the most thoroughly discussed topic these days is that of which party will control the Senate following the 1986 elections. Two intrepid political scientists, Michael Lewis-Beck and Tom W. Rice tell us their answer and provide impressive evidence to support it in their article "Are Senate Election Outcomes Predictable?"

Also in this issue there are two articles that expand on themes of previous issues, including an assessment of the role of experts in redistricting by Susan MacManus and Charles Bullock and a critical review of recent literature on black politics by Hanes Walton, Jr.

Topics for Forum

Topics are selected for the Forum section of *PS* not only to continue *PS* themes but often because APSA's president, Council or committees are emphasizing particular concerns. For example, 1984-85 President Richard Fenno and Council have committed the Association to address the problem of the retention and recruitment of blacks in the profession. Partly as a consequence of this interest, *PS* has presented a series of articles on black political scientists and the field of black politics.

Similarly, several APSA committees have discussed the problems of sexual harassment and the ethical and legal obligations of APSA members and political sci-



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ence departments in this area. Charles Cnudde, Chair of the Departmental Services Committee, and Betty Nesvold, a member of the committee, have thoroughly researched and thought about this problem. They present some useful guidance for department heads and deans in this issue of *PS*.

Other examples include Randall Ripley's article on requests for outside letters of reference and the presentation by Robert Benedict, Dalmas Nelson and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea on the University of Utah's intensive effort to recruit women and minority faculty members, both of which articles stem from initiatives of the Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights and Freedoms.

Annual Meeting Reports

Finally, special note ought to be made of our coverage of the annual meeting in New Orleans. Thanks to Carol Nechemias, for the last three years we have had excellent substantive reports on the plenary sessions. For the first time this year, five chairs of roundtables have written reportorial essays on the substance of their panels, with the result that these particular roundtables will be preserved for *PS* readers rather than vanish in thin air as roundtables tend to do.

As you read the Association News in particular, it is unlikely that the pictures from the annual meeting will escape your notice. Our talented photographer is Babette Augustin.

Catherine Rudder