

## First Meeting of the American and Chinese Political Science Associations

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The founding of APSA and the Chinese Association of Political Science (CAPS) was connected to a general search for new institutions and improving established patterns of governance. The members of APSA, organized in the midst of the progressive era, and CAPS, organized in the reconstruction period after the Cultural Revolution, pressed to find "scientific" means to resolve problems of social and political reform (see Seidelman, *Disenchanted Realists*, Albany: SUNY Press, 1985). The parallels between the early histories of APSA and CAPS emerged during a trip to China by representatives of APSA.

Six APSA representatives visited China for two weeks in May as guests of CAPS. The visit was the first exchange between the two political science associations and also the first formal exchange between social science associations. The exchange was made possible by financial support granted by the Asia Foundation. The APSA group went to China to understand the state of political science as an academic discipline; to understand the role of CAPS in promoting research and teaching; and to identify areas of future cooperation and collaboration.

The group included Richard Fenno (APSA president), Aaron Wildavsky (APSA president-elect), Philip Converse (APSA past president), Kenneth Lieberthal (Ad Hoc China Committee member), Thomas Mann (APSA Executive Director), and me. The members of the group travelled to Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, meeting informally with political scientists in research and teaching institutions. In addition, two members presented formal lectures. Richard Fenno spoke on the study of Congress in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, and Philip Converse lectured on electoral studies before members of the Shanghai CAPS.

## Political Science in China

Zhao Baoxu's PS article (Fall 1984, pp. 745-57) had prepared members for some of what they found regarding the state of political science in China. In general, the members of the group observed that political science in China lacks personnel, separate departments, and curricular materials. The ease with which these deficiencies are overcome will rest on how well political science can or appears to solve the manifold practical problems facing contemporary Chinese society.

Educational reforms in 1952 eliminated political science as an independent academic discipline. Some measure of political science training managed to survive, however, after international relations departments were created at Peking, People's and Fudan Universities in 1965. These too were closed during the Cultural Revolution, and the combination of revolution and reform prevented an entire generation of political scientists from being trained. Missing from the groups visited by the APSA delegation were men and women between the ages of 35 and 45. The lack of trained personnel will constrain current efforts to expand the number of political science departments and their curricula.

The first political science course was taught in China in 1903 at Yenching University, Peking University's predecessor. By 1948 there were 40 political scientists among 200 colleges and universities. At present, political science is taught in five university or college departments, though there are plans to expand this number in the near future. In at least three, Peking, Fudan and China People's University, political science is still taught within international relations departments. It is common, however, to hear faculty and students refer to these departments as "departments of political science." Significant expansion of the number of separate political science departments will await the next generation of teachers.

The personnel problem contributes to an additional problem for Chinese political scientists engaged in training the next

generation of teachers and researchers. Senior scholars must train themselves in contemporary political science as they train their students. Opportunities to study abroad and intensive seminars helping to retrain senior scholars will be needed for many years.

Teaching and curricular materials are also inadequate to meet the demands of research and teaching institutions. A visit to one university's collection of English language political science books revealed that the basic works of all the subfields of the discipline were missing. Faculty members were eager to identify important literature and pressed the APSA group to identify leading books in a number of fields.

Accustomed to thinking in terms of teachers as also researchers, members of the APSA group were sensitive to the division in China between teachers and researchers. Political scientists in universities and colleges teach; those in specialized institutes do research. The division will hamper the speed with which research findings are integrated into teaching curricula.

A national political science community is still being formed in China. The major task facing CAPS will be to forge a community of scholars and teachers that overcomes regional and institutional differences. The task will be a difficult one; even within the same municipality political scientists at different institutions are unaware of their colleagues at other institutions. The APSA group met with one group of faculty and students who only managed to learn of the delegation's visit through an announcement in the *People's Daily*.

The lack of manpower and materials will slow the pace of development of political science teaching and research in China. A more serious constraint will be the need to justify political science in terms of how well it solves practical problems. According to one faculty member, "political science was restored because of the needs of the times and the needs of politics." If political science cannot address practical problems it is questionable whether scarce resources will be

devoted to its continuing development outside of a few research institutes.

### Continuing Activities

Several projects emerged as a result of the first meeting between CAPS and APSA. APSA will host a visit of a CAPS delegation in 1986. The CAPS group will attend the APSA annual meeting in Washington, D.C. and visit graduate and undergraduate departments in New York, Boston, Ann Arbor, and San Francisco.

To contribute to the development of reference materials, APSA has given to CAPS a set of the *American Political Science Review* (1950-1985). The Asia Foundation also purchased APSA membership for several CAPS members enabling them to receive all publications.

APSA will be identifying ways in which Chinese students and faculty can learn of training opportunities in the United States. Students eagerly received copies of the *Guide to Graduate Study in Political Science*, and members of the APSA group saw an immediate need for a systematic means of identifying training and funding opportunities. APSA will also help identify opportunities in China for American scholars. Recently APSA arranged for the China Foreign Affairs College to advertise visiting faculty positions in the June issue of the *Personnel Service Newsletter*. According to department members the college was able to have a much broader search than otherwise possible.

Contingent upon adequate external funding, APSA is proposing to offer an intensive summer workshop on the United States Congress in 1987. The course will be held in Washington, D.C., and will be open to Chinese graduate students and faculty already studying in the United States. Later CAPS has agreed to host an APSA short course to introduce teachers to specialized curricula on the United States Congress. Pending funding, a group of congressional scholars will present the telecourse, *Congress: We the People*, to China. The telecourse is a joint product of APSA and WETA consisting of 26 half hour shows detailing the historic evolution of Congress, the insti-

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tution's place in the U.S. government, its relations with the outside world, and its internal operations.

The APSA group also asked CAPS to think in terms of developing projects of cooperative or collaborative research. This agenda will be discussed when the CAPS delegation visits in 1986. The members of the APSA group anticipate that an agenda of cooperative and collaborative activities will evolve over the next few years.

Finally, the APSA group's visit to China had an unanticipated consequence. During the trip the group members had many opportunities to discuss the substantive and methodological connections between area studies and other fields of political science. The group returned to the United States committed to exploring the existing and possible connections between area studies and other fields of political science. Kenneth Lieberthal's

article in this issue of *PS* is one outgrowth of this effort. □

## Nominating Committee To Convene

The 1986 Nominating Committee, headed by Nelson W. Polsby, University of California, Berkeley, will meet in Washington on March 13 to make nominations for president-elect, three vice presidents, secretary and eight Council positions. The committee welcomes suggestions for these nominations. □

## Wildavsky and Former Officers Announce Fundraising Drive

President Aaron Wildavsky and a group of former presidents and vice-presidents have launched a major drive to enhance

### MAJOR APSA ENDOWED FUNDS

The *Trust and Development Fund* is the general endowment fund of the Association. The Fund is governed by a Board of Trustees who act on requests from the Council for appropriations from its capital and with appropriate professional advice, direct the investment of its resources. The Fund was established to enable the Association to explore the desirability of proposed new programs and, on occasion, to seed their initial development so as to maximize chances of securing outside support for their continuation and expansion. All interest and dividends earned by the Fund are assigned to the Association's general operating account.

The *Congressional Fellowship Program*, established by the Association in 1953, provides political scientists and journalists a unique opportunity to work in congressional offices and to attend seminars on Congress and national politics. The Association is now seeking to secure a more stable financial base for this highly successful program by endowing individual fellowships.

The *H. D. Lasswell Symposium* was established to honor Harold Lasswell and to establish a structure whereby three outstanding political scientists are selected to present papers addressed to a common theme at an annual meeting plenary session. The participants, selected by the Program Committee, will receive an honorarium for preparing a paper and participating on the Lasswell Symposium. The Association has created an endowed program fund whose earnings will finance the symposium.

The *Evron M. Kirkpatrick Fund* was established to pay tribute to the Association's long-time executive director and to aid in the study of political science as a discipline and profession. The Fund's major programs will consist of the Pi Sigma Alpha oral history project and a monograph series on "The Craft of Political Science."