
Editor's Corner

June was a particularly heady month for political news. Amidst the brouhaha, network newscasts featured Harry Harding on the swift demise of China's pro-democracy movement. Harding sometimes shared the camera lens with Shireen T. Hunter of the Center for Strategic and International Studies who speculated on the impact of Ayatollah Khomeini's death on Middle East and international politics. On public television, McNeal/Lehrer brought us Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute analyzing Jim Wright's resignation as Speaker of the House of Representatives. In mid-June, the Roosevelt Center for American Policy Studies, founded in 1982, closed its doors. Without the continuing support of its major benefactor, Richard J. Dennis, and unable to raise sufficient funds from other sources, the Roosevelt Center left the Washington scene. Just as the Roosevelt Center departed, Al From and Will Marshall announced the opening of the Progressive Policy Institute, a think-tank closely related to the Nunn-Robb branch of the Democratic Party.

The creation of the Progressive Policy Institute, the demise of the Roosevelt Center, and the everpresent analysis and testimony of think tank experts, all speak to the subject of this issue's major article. R. Kent Weaver, himself a senior scholar at the Brookings Institution, systematically describes think tanks in Washington as well as around the nation. Weaver categorizes think tanks by type, examines the relationship between organization and mission, identifies problems of funding and staffing, and points to the permanent position of think tanks in the policymaking process.

China

The warrant for the arrest of Yan Jiaqi, Director of the Institute of Political Science in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, cast another light on the suppression of dissent in the People's Republic of China. Professor Yan had actively participated in the scholarly exchange program involving the Association and the Chinese Association of Political Science (CAPS).

The American Association for the Advancement of Science's Office of Scientific Freedom and Responsibility reports that Wan Xinjin, professor of political science and a reported leader of the Beijing Resident Autonomous Federation, has turned himself over to authorities; Chen Yang, a student in the Department of Law in Beijing's Politics and Law University, has been arrested, charged with being a director of the Beijing Citizens' Autonomous Federation; Zhang Qiqing, a student in the College of Politics and Law, Shanxi Province, appears on the '21 Most Wanted Students' list, as does Wang Zhaohua of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Xiong Yan of Beijing University's Department of Law. Xiong has already been arrested. The well-being of members of the political science community in China is of continuing concern to the Association and will be monitored by the Association's Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights and Freedoms.

The feature section of this issue begins with a brief essay by Stephen Elkins on the student pro-democracy movement in China. Elkins witnessed the events of Beijing and shares with *PS* readers the nature of the tragedy.

Voter Registration Reform

Political participation and the uses of social science data to influence policy-making are two themes at the heart of the Piven and Cloward article. Proponents of simplified voter registration rules, Piven and Cloward examine how census and voting data have been misinterpreted in the registration reform debate. The authors argue that those who minimize the impact of liberalized registration requirements base their widely publicized conclusions on misleading and incorrect data.

Dividing the Annual Meeting Panels

Though the 1989 Annual Meeting has yet to be held, plans are already underway for the 1990 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Jane Mansbridge details the complex task of apportioning the limited number of panels among the Program Committee Sections and the Organized Sections. In the process of asking who is to get how many panels and why, Mansbridge raises significant structural questions for the Association. Consider the Mansbridge article carefully and respond to her invitation to join the debate.

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