

Editor's Corner

This issue of *PS* constitutes an attempt to explore the landscape that exists between articles in the *American Political Science Review* on the one hand and journalism on the other. Whereas in the past articles in the front section of *PS* have been concerned with political science as a profession, this *PS* offers articles of political analysis to see if there is an audience within the profession for cogent essays on current political phenomena. The idea is to bring scholarly knowledge to bear on political issues in a timely and readable manner. Future issues will include analytical articles on international, cross-national and philosophical subjects, as well as articles on the profession.

The symposium on **The Reagan Budget: Redistribution of Power and Responsibilities** is unique in several respects. First, it is extremely timely. The authors labored under short deadlines—much shorter than those to which political scientists are usually accustomed. (Some lag occurred in production, and several authors asked me to remind readers that these pieces were written in late August and early September.) Second, this symposium provides information on and analysis of the Reagan budget which has not been published elsewhere.

Jean Peters gives readers an insider's view of what happened in Congress. John Gist meticulously analyzes the Reagan budget and puts it in perspective by comparing it with past budgets and by looking at the out-years. Allen Schick examines the reconciliation process in terms of its permanence as a budget tool and its effect on relationships in Congress. Richard Nathan looks at one of the most salient features of the Reagan budget, block grants coupled with budget cuts, and considers the implications for states and localities. Finally, Bruce L. R.

Smith and James Carroll put the Reagan budget in an historical context.

Each author offers different insights on the meaning of the president's budget, but there are some similar conclusions: Schick and Peters agree reconciliation procedures are far from institutionalized. Nathan and Gist observe that there is less new in block grants than meets the eye. All seem to think that something important has happened as a result of the Reagan budget, but there is a tentativeness to the president's success largely because of the uncertain economy.

Change in Format

In addition to the experiment with a new kind of article, this issue introduces a change in format. When I became editor, it was clear that APSA members liked *PS*; some even savored it. I decided that the best way to improve *PS* was to build on its strengths by retaining popular, useful features with a change in format and a slight change in approach.

There are now four main sections in *PS*: the articles, *PS* Notebook on scholarly and professional news for political scientists, quarterly features which recur each year (such as the list of dissertations completed and in progress), and a *PS* Appendix which maintains *PS* as a journal of record. It is in the Appendix that full reports of Council meetings, Treasurer's activities and other necessary records will be found in the future. Frequently, news articles will refer to items in the Appendix. This approach varies somewhat from previous practice of reprinting reports in the main body of *PS*.

We are also attempting to make *PS* as open to as many interests and groups in political science as possible. The news articles on the 1981 Annual Meeting, for

example, include items not only on official APSA events but also on the Women's Caucus for Political Science, the Policy Studies Organization, and the Caucus for a New Political Science. Any group wanting its activities covered in *PS* should write me here at the national office.

In addition, the change in format entails a few name changes. Thus, News and Notes, for example, is now entitled People in Political Science, and Past Conferences is moved to News of the Profession and will be covered as news articles. Hopefully, under the new format names

of features will be self-explanatory, and it will be easier to know exactly what items are in *PS* and where they are by glancing at the table of contents.

I hope you will let the Editorial Board and me know your reaction to our new format as well as to the experiment of offering articles of political analysis. Needless to say, any opinions expressed in the essays are those of the authors, and should you have an alternative view which you would like to state in the Letters section of *PS*, please write.

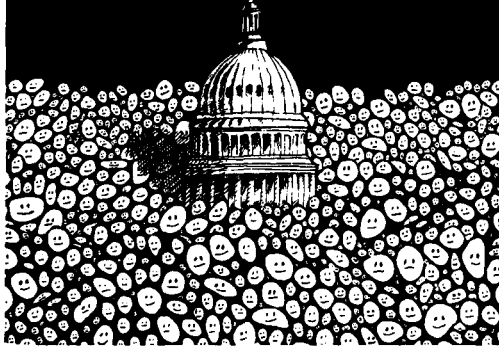
Catherine E. Rudder

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