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Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC TRUST. Report of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York Special Committee on Congressional Ethics. New York: Atheneum, 1970. Pp. xxvii, 351. \$8.95.

Sensing a growing public distrust of Congress, represented by the Bobby Baker scandal, the exclusion of Representative-elect Adam Clayton Powell, and the investigation and censure of Senator Thomas E. Dodd, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, in 1967, obtained a Ford Foundation grant to study the ethical standards of the United States Congress. The resultant report draws heavily on interviews with 120 senators and representatives and indexes a wealth of previously uncatalogued data on the present ethical standards of Congress, the activities of the members of Congress, and the practical problems of those in public office. Specifically, the report examines conflicts of interest, law practice by congressmen, campaign financing, salaries, allowances, gifts, supplemental funds, and honoraria. In relation to these activities, the study sets forth the existing congressional codes of conduct, both written and unwritten, and evaluates their effectiveness. The Committee has presented a concise, yet detailed, report of the ethical problems peculiar to Congress and a series of thoughtful recommendations for reform that comprise a comprehensive Model Code of Conduct. It is the hope of the Committee that the carefully drafted Model Code will become the basis for future legislation similar to the 1962 overhauling of the federal conflict of interest laws governing the executive branch of government. Whether or not that goal is realized, this thoughtful study has defined a previously unknown quantity and thus has made an important contribution to congressional ethics reform.

HOW TO TALK BACK TO YOUR TELEVISION SET. By Nicholas Johnson. Boston: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1970. Pp. ix, 228. \$5.75.

The youngest man ever to serve on the Federal Communications Commission explores the influence of television on American life and expresses his dismay with the forces that are constantly pressuring broadcasting companies. He deplors the joint ownership of the mass media, which often leads to huge conglomerates and results in dangers to journalistic integrity. Concluding that the FCC is far from an adequate guardian of the public interest in broadcasting, the book emphasizes the

need for citizen participation in the struggle to require the broadcasting companies to diversify their programming and free themselves from industry influence. The author expresses the pervasive need for careful planning, experimentation, and pilot projects to maximize the benefit of the mass media in the future. The book includes in-depth discussions of the real causes of censorship; the potential of the Public Broadcasting Corporation; the possible effects of cable television on urban as well as rural areas; and the minimal reduction in violence and sex on television in the last fifteen years. The myth that American people are getting what they want from television is carefully refuted. In addition, concrete reforms that should be undertaken by the broadcasting industry are explored.

THE QUALITY OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT. Edited by Harvey S. Perloff. Washington: Resources for the Future, Inc., 1969. Pp. xiii, 332. \$6.50.

This book is a collection of essays that construct a conceptual framework for a research methodology necessary to accumulate the hard data for public policy decision-making in the area of the urban environment. The primary intent is to stimulate thinking and research rather than to provide a collection of all available knowledge. The central concern of the book is the "new resources" that are available to the decision-maker as he approaches problems of the urban environment. The basic tack of each of the nine essays is systems analysis. For example, the second essay, "Pollution and Environmental Quality," analyzes the problems confronting the urban environment in this area by looking at the sectors of the economy that present society with this by-product. This "materials balance" approach views pollution as a problem of an environmental system, not as specific problems of air, water, and solid pollution (the traditional breakdown). Similarly, the sixth essay, "Transport: Key to the Future of Cities," views transportation technology as a "new resource" which, if properly used, will provide decision-makers with more options for innovations in urban living. Other essays deal with contained urban space, open space as an urban resource, amenity resources, the value of urban land, the location, size, and shape of cities, and the human factor in patterns of time and space use.

WELFARE MEDICAL CARE: AN EXPERIMENT. By Charles H. Goodrich, Margaret C. Olendzki, and George G. Reader. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1970. Pp. viii, 343. \$7.00.

The New York Hospital—Cornell Project was an attempt by a voluntary teaching hospital in Manhattan to provide comprehensive medical care for urban welfare recipients. In their evaluation of this five-year experiment, the authors focus on the merits of individual medical treatment in a previously impersonal welfare area. After analyzing the massive statistical data compiled from 1960-65, it is found that the welfare patient reacted positively to a single facility for all his medical needs and to a staff with whom he became familiar. In almost every case of a comparative study, the facts revealed a higher quality of care in the Project Hospital. Although the cost of this service proved slightly higher than previous welfare medical treatment, the authors believe that some type of personal, comprehensive medical program for the urban indigent will be essential in the future. Even if the Cornell Project is not specifically adopted, the information gathered and tabulated in this report is valuable because it illustrates the medical problems of the urban welfare patient.

