Paul G. Hoffman: Architect of Foreign Aid. By Alan R. Raucher (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1985. Pp. xi, 208. Illustrations, notes, essay on sources, index. $22.00.)

Paul G. Hoffman crowded two rather distinct careers into a long and active life. From 1925 until 1948 he was one of South Bend's leading citizens, working to bring Studebaker to significant levels of success as "America's Friendliest Factory." From 1948 until 1971 he was involved in a variety of public service efforts, beginning with the Marshall Plan and concluding with the United Nations Development Program. During these careers he developed a national reputation as a "progressive" business leader and a devoted champion of the efficacy of foreign aid for economic development. Along with other like-minded business leaders of his day, he has come to be identified with the notion of "corporatism," a term which suggests an economic policy based on a conservative form of Keynesianism and a flexible attitude toward labor relations. In the sphere of foreign relations Hoffman believed that foreign economic aid aimed at creating markets in developing nations was the best way to achieve the goals of ensuring political stability and fostering the growth of free enterprise.

Alan R. Raucher's meticulously researched and well-written biography outlines the career of Paul Hoffman in a generally sympathetic way. Based on a wide variety of manuscript and oral history sources, including Hoffman's own papers at the Truman Library, the book relies little on existing published material, although Raucher includes a lengthy and comprehensive bibliography of relevant secondary sources.

More often than not, biographies are criticized because the author has not been able to resist the temptation to include every known fact, however trivial, about his or her subject's life, making for eternally long and boring books. This is a fault which can by no means be laid at Raucher's feet. His biography, in 165 pages of text, is a model of succinct writing. For the readers with more than a casual interest in Hoffman, however, this succinctness can be frustrating. On numerous occasions some event or activity in Hoffman's life is briefly mentioned and then forgotten, leaving the reader with unanswered questions. For example, we are told that Hoffman served on the Automotive Council for War Production during World War II, but we do not learn how Hoffman, an anti–New Deal Republican, received the appointment, what the council did, what role Hoffman played in its work, and what significance this service may have had on Hoffman's later public service.

Raucher, who published an article on Hoffman's concern for automotive safety in the September, 1983, issue of this journal, has given us a brief and very readable biography of an individual certainly deserving of a biography. Had he fleshed out his skeleton, one could claim that he had written the definitive life of Hoffman. Nonetheless, the book is worthwhile, both for its explorations into the business history of the automotive industry and for its insight into various economic aspects of the Cold War years.

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Novus Ordo Seclorum: The Intellectual Origins of the Constitution. By Forrest McDonald. (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1985. Pp. xiii, 359. Notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. $25.00.)

Three decades ago, when Forrest McDonald published *We the People: The Economic Origins of the Constitution*, a book designed to clear the historical landscape of Beardian remnants, he promised two sequels on the making of the Constitution. The first of these, *E Pluribus Unum*, appeared in 1965 and treated the political context of the movement toward the Constitution. The present volume deals with the intellectual origins. The delay has been fortunate. McDonald brings to the subject the fruit of a career devoted to reading and contemplating the sources dealing with eighteenth-century politics. Whatever the strength of his insight, or his truly impressive synthetic ability, one can doubt that the book could have been written thirty or even twenty years ago. McDonald remains his own historian, singularly so in many instances, but he plainly builds on the work of Robbins, Bailyn, Pocock, Colbourn, and Wood. The book is both a brilliant exposition of his own views and a judicious extension of the work of the last generation on the intellectual history of the revolutionary age.

Ideas, for McDonald, are imbedded in experience. In the jargon of the time, he writes about the sociology of ideas. The point is made in a chapter on "The Rights of Englishmen" that describes the constitutional basis of the English conception of natural, legal, and prescriptive rights that were to be so important in the making of American independence. Indeed he sees the Constitution as an experiential document, the consequence of much practical give and take among politicians of varying opinions and interests. This alone would be little advance in the historiography of the subject. McDonald's contribution is in the