

phrase attached to the British politician Lord Rosebery. Gresham too wanted the palm without the dust.

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*From Sovereign to Servant: The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, 1912-1987.* By Edwin L. Becker. (Indianapolis: Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, 1987. Pp. iii, 156. Illustrations, figure, sources, index. Paperbound, \$7.50.)

Edwin L. Becker's history of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis belongs in every Protestant parish library in Indianapolis. It provides an excellent summary of the first seventy-five years of federation history seen in the context of both American and local religious history. In addition, Becker deserves commendation for his broad view of religious history in its social context.

Organized in six chronological chapters, Becker's monograph is traditional in its methodology. Becker clearly offers officially sponsored history, since he undertook this work for the federation's Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Committee. He displays a thorough mastery of the federation's collection of the written documentation of its own history. In addition, Becker also demonstrates an acute understanding of how federation history can be traced in local newspaper accounts of its work and in oral history interviews.

As he documents the way the federation has represented institutionalized cooperation among Protestant churches in the region, Becker also shows that white Anglo-Saxon Protestantism is no longer as secure or as dominant in Indianapolis religious and socio-political life as it was in the pre-World War I era. Becker deserves special commendation for attempting to describe how the federation has been a leader in confronting the problems of racism in Indianapolis and how the role of black churches within the federation has gradually expanded.

While Becker does an excellent job describing how the federation has responded to racism, he says amazingly little about how the federation has responded to sexism, although the work of women prominent in federation history is described in some detail. When the Women's Department disappears in the 1930s, women as a group seem to vanish from Becker's history.

In addition to wondering why the role of women has not been treated in greater detail, one also wishes that Becker had treated the federation's relationship with the Roman Catholic community in greater detail. It is also significant that Becker treats the Jewish community's relationship with the federation basically in terms of rabbinical support of efforts for greater racial understanding and

in terms of how the Jewish community's objections to religious practices in the public schools were received by the federation.

Despite its minor flaws, this monograph is worthy of commendation. It is interesting, informative, and a pleasure to read.

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*Back Home Again: Indiana in the Farm Security Administration Photographs, 1935–1943.* Edited by Robert L. Reid. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987. Pp. xii, 144. Illustrations. Clothbound, \$28.95; paperbound, \$18.95.)

*Back Home Again* consists almost entirely of 132 photographs—but what photographs! These pictures from the Great Depression and the World War II homefront document a brief and often troubling period in the lives of some typical Hoosiers. The limiting word is “some,” for the Farm Security Administration photographers worked on specific assignments and did not cover the full range of Indiana society or geography. Their subjects were chiefly the ordinary people of farms and small towns, mainly in central and southern Indiana. Indianapolis is well represented in numbers, but the peacetime pictures seem rather cold and distant when compared with the intensely human drama of the farms and small towns. A more emotional atmosphere appears in the pictures taken at Fort Benjamin Harrison and the wartime bus station.

Robert L. Reid's comments are brief but helpful, describing the photographic program of the Resettlement Administration of 1935, renamed the Farm Security Administration after the Department of Agriculture absorbed it in 1937. Unlike some picture books, the images here are sharply printed in a generous six-by-eight-inch format and carefully identified by photographer, location, date, and Library of Congress file number.

The original purpose of the photo unit was to picture America's rural poverty and the remedial projects of the Resettlement Administration. This attempt soon developed into a broader effort to document rural and small town life in general. As Russell Lee explained to an interviewer long afterward, whenever questioned he answered simply: “I'm taking pictures of the history of today” (p. ix). A half-century later one can begin to appreciate the documentary value of these FSA pictures, which eventually numbered nearly a quarter of a million nationwide. Many of the New Deal photographers moved on to distinguished careers in journalism, and Reid provides brief biographical notes for all those who worked in Indiana.