

to illuminate the emergence of left-liberal activism or of its special southern focus during the 1930s and 1940s. Yet Highlander, both as cadre and as venue, surely represents a style of reform activism and a technique of reform organization characteristic of its age. Its history thus cries out to be used to help understand such activism through an analysis of the relationship between program technique and program goals and the relationship of social and political ideology to the definition of program goals and program technique.

Such information will not come readily from the institutional records, but it should not be the reader's obligation to make the first analytical forays in these directions. And it seems unfair to this reader, at least, to tantalize with a richness of opportunity and then serve only the dry bones of fact.

HENRY D. SHAPIRO is professor of history and co-director of the Center for Neighborhood and Community Studies at the University of Cincinnati. A specialist in American intellectual and cultural history, he is the author of *Appalachia on Our Mind* (1978) and of numerous essays on regionalism and the idea of community in the United States.

Labor Leaders in America. Edited by Melvyn Dubofsky and Warren Van Tine (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1987. Pp. xvi, 396. Bibliographic notes, illustrations, index. Clothbound, \$34.95; paper bound, \$14.95.)

This fine book is a collection of essays on fifteen major labor leaders whose careers are interwoven with more than a century of American labor history. Although the essays are essentially biographical in structure and content, they locate their subjects firmly in the social and cultural worlds of their times. Together they provide at once a useful reference tool and a personalized history of the development of the labor movement in America.

These well-crafted portraits reflect current interests and themes in the work of labor historians. In the essays on William Sylvius and Rose Schneiderman one sees the interplay between trade union and feminist goals; in the lives of John L. Lewis, Sidney Hillman, Philip Murray, and Walter Reuther the recognition and acceptance of the state as a central player in trade union fortunes; and in the early experiences of such different figures as Samuel Gompers, William D. "Big Bill" Haywood, and A. Philip Randolph encounters with radicalizing ideas that animated their trade union careers in varied ways.

So broad is the sweep of the volume and so diverse the material gathered that it does not permit easy generalization about either the nature of leadership or the development of the labor movement. In their introduction the editors use a fictitious dia-

logue created by J. B. S. Hardman in 1928 between a labor leader and "his younger self" to suggest certain broad themes captured in the essays: the institutionalization and bureaucratization of the labor movement, the importance of state power, the persistent, if transformed, idealism that motivated these leaders, as well as their practical skills as organization-men and women.

The volume is not simply or even primarily an introduction to the labor movement for persons with little background, though its readability and overall organization make it useful in that regard. The essays contain numerous passages that contribute brilliantly to an ongoing reassessment of the history of the labor movement. David Montgomery's discussion of Sylvis's ideological development between 1867 and 1869 masterfully captures the context that shaped the radicalism of a generation of skilled workingmen. Joseph Conlin's observations on Haywood's organizational skills and cautiousness in leading the International Workers of the World during the war years add complexity to an often stereotyped individual and organization. Alice Kessler-Harris brilliantly documents Rose Schneiderman's efforts to reconcile an enduring commitment to trade unionism with her commitments to unorganized working women whom the trade union movement had largely excluded. Melvyn Dubofsky and Warren Van Tine highlight John L. Lewis's spectacularly important recognition of the centrality of the state to the revival of the labor movement in the 1930s and his recognition that political mobilization was a major feature of the CIO's industrial organizing campaigns.

This is a book that speaks effectively to and deserves attention from a wide audience of academic historians, trade union leaders and members, and the general public.

SHELTON STROMQUIST is an associate professor of history at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and the author of *A Generation of Boomers: The Pattern of Railroad Labor Conflict in Nineteenth Century America* (1987).

Public Places: Exploring Their History. By Gerald A. Danzer. (Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1987. Pp. xiii, 135. Illustrations, figures, suggested readings, maps, appendixes, index. Paperbound, \$11.95.)

Public Places is the latest publication in the American Association for State and Local History's "Nearby History Series." Like others in the series, this book touches on the structures and spaces that make up American communities. Gerald A. Danzer's book, however, represents a departure from the single institution focus in the other books by emphasizing a wide range of topics. In *Public Places*, the author discusses the importance of monuments, buildings, town plans, streets, parks, and open spaces in a community.