

needs into a separate 'women's sphere,' and then devalued them by subordinating social and family concerns to economic production—the 'business' of farming" (p. 5). Professionals concerned with social and economic problems of rural families lacked status in government agencies and academic institutions that placed higher value on the scientific and commercial aspects of agriculture. Insecure themselves, they did little to counter the dominant agribusiness orientation of policymakers and often joined in denigrating farmers who did not adopt progressive methods as "backward" and farm women who labored both on the farm and in the home as "drudges."

Neth argues that women had the most to lose in the eventual triumph of agribusiness in the post-World War II period. Changes in marketing and agricultural production, she explains, eliminated women's economic base on family farms and "they became more like their urban counterparts, contributing wages and unpaid household labor to the family economy" (p. 241-42). By terminating her study in 1940, Neth illuminates the persistence of traditional survival strategies in the midst of change but leaves the reader longing for similarly deft analysis of the crucial war years. Nonetheless, this is an ambitious and important study that provides a valuable analytical framework and raises countless questions for more detailed examinations of twentieth-century rural change in individual midwestern states.

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Philip Hart: The Conscience of the Senate. By Michael O'Brien. (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1995. Pp. x, 233. Illustrations, notes, sources, index. \$29.95.)

Philip A. Hart served three terms as United States senator from Michigan from 1958 to 1976. A liberal Democrat, he served during the most important period of legislative social reform after World War II, a period that also was one of social and political upheaval. Hart was, in addition, one of the most influential legislators, earning the respect and then admiration of both constituents and colleagues for his intellect, humility, compassion, quiet congeniality, and formidable tenacity. Senator Edward Kennedy said, "he was like a brother to me." Before his death from cancer during his last year in office, his colleagues voted to name the new Senate office building for him.

Hart was a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of Michigan Law School and a World War II veteran (he was wounded by shrapnel on Utah beach). He fell in love with and married Janey Briggs (daughter of the owner of the Detroit Lions foot-

ball team), and they ultimately had eight children. Hart entered politics at the local level after discovering that practicing law was not fulfilling. After serving as United States attorney and before being elected lieutenant governor of Michigan, he was adviser to and protégé of G. Mennen Williams, governor of that state. In the United States Senate, his major post was chairmanship of the Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also was responsible for passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the establishment of the Sleeping Bear Dunes national lakeshore.

A thoughtful individual who experienced bouts of depression, he could see both sides of an issue with ease. His foremost concern was that the power centers of America, the corporations and government, had lost contact with the average American and were thus thwarting democracy. He felt that if the federal government acted properly on behalf of the consumer, racial minorities, and the poor, it could restore the balance and at the same time fend off communism abroad. In the event, of course, this was a huge challenge that in addition to social reform resulted in racial turmoil and the failure in Vietnam.

Michael O'Brien's biography accomplishes in full what it sets out to do. Drawing on the Hart papers, published sources, and interviews, his account, although brief, is detailed, well organized, and engaging. The author allows his subject's life to unfold and provides a balanced interpretation of it in a way that makes his book indispensable reading for anyone who would understand Michigan and midwestern politics along with the origins, strengths, and weaknesses of federal policy during the Kennedy-Johnson-Nixon-Ford years.

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Henry Clay and the American System. By Maurice G. Baxter. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1995. Pp. [viii], 261. Illustrations, notes, index. \$34.95.)

Maurice G. Baxter has performed a valuable service to American historians by compiling this brief history of Henry Clay's promotion of his "American System" for national economic development. Although Clay's pet project has earned due attention from historians of the nineteenth century, a monograph focused specifically on the issue has been long overdue.

Naturally, historians have devoted enormous attention to Clay's career and political philosophy. The Kentucky statesman has been the subject of a number of excellent biographies as well as a leading character in other histories of the period. Perhaps the