

Nonetheless, this is a wonderful book: original, careful, and thorough in what it accomplishes. It opens the way to scholarly discussion of an important subject in American religious culture.

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Ralph W. Yarborough, The People's Senator. By Patrick L. Cox. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001. Pp. xx, 348. Notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

The "patron saint of Texas liberals" (p. xv), Ralph W. Yarborough is the focus of this revised and expanded dissertation from the University of Texas at Austin. Readers unfamiliar with the story—or familiar only with the most prominent Texas liberal, Lyndon B. Johnson—will learn much about Texas liberalism. But Patrick L. Cox's biography overplays Yarborough's accomplishments and only partly reveals how he achieved his liberal goals. The book also indicates, perhaps contrary to Cox's intention, why the liberal movement in Texas was as weak as it was.

Yarborough's leadership and political style undermined his attempts to bring social justice to Texas and America. He won only three of nine statewide races during his political career. He exhibited a tendency to go it alone and to fight when he might have compromised, and he found it difficult to delegate responsibilities during campaigns, which hindered his effectiveness. Cox establishes that Yarborough was "one of a kind," that he employed an "evangelical style" (p. xvii) that worked in his favorite arena—speaking before live audiences—but which played less well over the radio and later television; thus, he shunned the trend towards the use of personality politics that emerged in Texas and America in the 1930s and after. Yarborough based his political appeal on his rhetorical skills; yet Cox does not furnish extended quotations to establish what it was about his rhetoric that attracted voters and supporters. Similarly, Cox asserts that Yarborough was the "chief engineer" of the Great Society programs, but he never shows how Yarborough achieved his goals—the reader never gets a sense of how the senator worked with northern liberals; surely he had a different style from the arm-twisting approach of LBJ. Instead, Cox focuses on Yarborough's conflicts with other Texas politicians, especially John Connally and LBJ.

Cox has done the required research, but the sources in Texas are often less revealing than they might be. Oral history also anchors Cox's analyses, and here there is a sense that the interviewees (including Yarborough) were not always forthcoming. This results in a murky analysis of Yarborough's position on race and civil rights. By the 1960s, Yarborough was firmly behind the civil rights move-

ment; before that, however, Cox is unable to clearly show how, why, and when Yarborough overcame his East Texas racism. Cox is more effective in illustrating Yarborough's change of heart over Vietnam and in tying Yarborough's early career as a state lawyer to his successes in establishing national parks and promoting environmental legislation.

Despite the shortcomings, this book should be consulted by those interested in how liberalism operated in Texas. Combined with the numerous studies of Lyndon Johnson, this biography not only reveals why liberalism never dominated in Texas, but also suggests that Texas liberals contributed to national efforts to use the government to bring about social justice.

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Nixon's Civil Rights: Politics, Principle, and Policy. By Dean J. Kotlowski. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001. Pp. x, 404. Notes, select bibliography, index. \$35.00.)

Nothing has been so momentous in modern American social history as the civil rights movement, and in that movement, no single person has been so significant or so enigmatic as Richard Milhouse Nixon. Spokesman for a cynical and divisive "Southern Strategy," Nixon consciously employed appeals to the basest racism in southerners in his 1968 and 1972 presidential campaigns; and of course this campaign rhetoric found its appeal in border states like Indiana as well as in the Deep South. Yet, the Nixon record is remarkable: millions, not thousands, of black children entering integrated public schools; a steady rise in income and educational levels in both absolute and relative terms for all African Americans; a forceful and unprecedented integration of the previously segregated labor ranks of construction and building trades; "set aside" programs for minority-owned small businesses in lucrative federal building projects; affirmative action, especially as applied to the previously untouched professional class in the academy, government, and corporate management; and a dramatic expansion of the very concept of civil rights to include women and Native Americans and other "outside" groups in an insightful and epochal multicultural (rather than simply black-and-white) perspective.

In an impressively researched work, Dean J. Kotlowski tries to set Nixon and his people into meaningful context by defining the principles of "Nixonians," noting where his predecessors had gotten us, what he was attempting to accomplish politically, then marking the resulting policy.