

not merely between Finnish and German writers, but also between Finns themselves and Germans themselves. His attempt at meticulous accuracy appears successful, except when he makes Stalin prime minister a year and a half too soon (p. 53). In attempting to be meticulously fair he hesitates to pass judgment on the "Mannerheim Legend" as perpetuated in the Marshal's memoirs and on most questions of right and wrong, but against Nazi Germany he does not hesitate to use such strong, though doubtless justified, language as "the madmen in the Wilhelmstrasse" and the "monstrous régime" in Berlin (pp. 49, 256). The book has no illustrations, and the one small closely packed map is inadequate.

The author occasionally allows himself a suggestive *obiter dictum*, such as "Romanticism, unhampered by cold reality, can be a blessing for the arts, but it is almost always disastrous in politics" (p. 118), that "once a war has begun and military victory seems possible, even a nation which at the outset has regarded itself as fighting a defensive war . . . wishes to impose a peace which will give it advantages not previously enjoyed" (p. 136), and that "the corrosion of free institutions . . . often takes place in the guise of intemperate and violent anti-Communism" (p. 256).

Professor Lundin finds a happy ending to the tale of Finland's unhappy years. Unlike many countries to her south, Finland has not fallen entirely under Soviet control, the U.S.S.R. having learned that she "is poor material for a satellite state" (p. 252). With the decline of both the Rightist and Leftist groups which had been influential before 1939, he believes that Finnish democracy has "emerged from the war stronger than it had ever been," and that Finnish achievements in housing and social services since 1944 have been "amazing" (pp. 256, 257).

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George B. Manhart

*The Office of Governor in the United States.* By Coleman B. Ransone, Jr. (University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1956. Pp. x, 416. Charts, tables, and index. \$6.00.)

Building on an earlier book about the office of governor in the South and traveling to twenty-five states for obser-

vations and interviews, the author has written the "first descriptive and analytical study of the gubernatorial office on a nation-wide basis." As a political scientist, Mr. Ransone is interested in the current status of the governor rather than in the role of that official throughout American history. His research is translated into an analysis of statistical materials, and on that basis he recommends improvements in the executive branch of state government.

One section describes "gubernatorial politics." The elections of 1930 to 1950 are consulted to discover patterns of party politics, especially as they affect the governors. The Union is divided into three categories: fourteen one-party states (all southern except two); twenty "normally" Democratic or Republican states; and fourteen "two-party" states (including Indiana, though the author did not travel to Hoosierdom). In most states, consequently, the nominating process is more significant than the election. Factionalism within parties is a filter through which an aspirant to the governorship must pass. Not only must he campaign within this environment, but, if he is elected, he must somehow maintain a working coalition of factions in order to be effective.

Another section discusses the "executive function." An important ingredient in a mass of responsibilities is the formation of policy, hampered by the political and constitutional position of the average governor. In the absence of a genuine two-party situation, according to Mr. Ransone, legislative-executive relations are frequently unsatisfactory. Furthermore, in devising a budget, the key to any program, the governor is severely handicapped by constitutional provisions. Closely associated with policy, management is a major duty and yet productive of gubernatorial headaches. More often than not, the governor is simply the "first among equals," since the heads of departments and agencies are themselves usually elected, independent officers. Thus the problem is persuasion as well as administration. The author would repose more power in the governor's hands so as to achieve unified, efficient government. Naturally the adoption of this proposal is not imminent, as he well knows, and he would accomplish a good deal through remodeling the governor's staff organization. His discussion of this aspect is interesting and valuable. Finally, the governor must devote much energy to public relations. In order to eliminate ex-

cessive demands upon the chief executive's time, delegation of many of these tasks to the staff is urged.

The work, as a whole, would have been better if the author had combined some history with his analytical description. Selecting the method that he did, he can only assert, without demonstration, that variations from state to state are explainable in terms of the "ecology" of local conditions. Should objections on this ground be generously repressed, it is difficult to approve the paucity of annotations. Lacking adequate footnotes, the book should certainly have contained a bibliography. Readers tolerant of these faults will protest the fat of repetitious words surrounding the muscle of ideas, convincing as they may be.

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Maurice G. Baxter

*National Party Platforms, 1840-1956.* Compiled by Kirk H. Porter and Donald Bruce Johnson. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1956. Pp. xi, 573. \$10.00.)

This needed volume in many respects is well executed, but on the whole is deficient as a scholarly publication. Here are the texts of major party platforms from 1840 through 1956 and likewise for a significant number of lesser parties. Brief editorial notes are given for each presidential campaign and the unabridged platforms are allowed to speak for themselves. The format—two columns on large pages—makes the platforms readable and a concise table of contents makes them easy to locate. Much research was obviously required to obtain and edit these national platforms.

But there is a debit side of the ledger. The dates on which the platforms were adopted are not indicated, nor the places where they were adopted. This is most unfortunate. Since the platforms in particular campaigns are much influenced in their framing by whether they precede or follow rival platforms, chronology is important and the accidents of location are also significant.

Far worse than this, however, citations to the sources are lacking. In the preface the editors state that varied sources have been used and "that sometimes there is variation in copies of a platform obtained from the same party headquarters." They add that at times platforms "obviously have been altered, edited, or corrected before being published