

reaches of the valley, is the special province of the United States Army Corps of Engineers as presented in Chapter 11. In Chapter 12, "Water Management and the Wabash Basin," several multi-purpose river developments are cited such as the Miami Conservancy District, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Hoover Commissions, and the Select Committee on National Water Resources. The Delaware and Potomac basins are projected as examples of the new integrated water resource planning of the Department of Agriculture's small watershed program, together with the water supply, recreation, flood control, and navigation responsibilities of the Corps of Engineers. Chapter 12 also presents the concept of multi-purpose and comprehensive planning. Most of the thinking is based directly upon water management and related land resources such as flood, water supply and quality, sediment abatement, improved drainage, water recreation, fish and wild life, nature preservation, navigation, hydroelectric power, waste disposal, irrigation needs, and industrial use of water. It is Chapter 12 that best summarizes the purpose of the entire book, after giving credit to the Wabash Valley Association and the Corps of Engineers, "the problem facing the Wabash Basin is to create and execute a plan considering and including all the uses to which its natural resources may be applied while bringing together in coordination the points of view of all users of these resources . . . when the plans . . . are prepared they will be applicable uniquely to the Wabash and to no other area, because no two watersheds are alike" (p. 177). Obviously this could be Volume I in a long series of plans and studies, especially in view of the lack of regional homogeneity in the Wabash Basin.

University of Illinois

John H. Garland

Mr. Crump of Memphis. By William D. Miller. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964. Pp. xiii, 373. Illustrations, notes, essay on sources, index. \$6.75.)

This book provides the first full-length treatment of Edward H. Crump, the power of Memphis politics from the Progressive period until the late 1940's. Professor Miller, the author of a previous book on Memphis in the Progressive era, brings to his subject extensive knowledge of Memphis politics and society. He has also used Crump's personal papers and has interviewed many of Crump's relatives, friends, and former political associates.

In Miller's view Crump emerges as a progressive businessman-politician not unlike others of the period. As mayor of Memphis from 1909 to 1915 Crump provided honest, efficient, and economical government. He tried also to aid the Negro population by improving park facilities and health services. As a boss in subsequent years Crump did not rely upon graft but upon Negro voters and upon financial contributions of businessmen grateful for Memphis' orderly politics, excellent public services, and low tax rates. Miller also stresses Crump's loyalty to the New Deal, his love of the TVA, and his hatred of private power

interests. Miller also points out that Crump outlived his time: in 1948, for instance, he supported the Dixiecrat ticket and denounced (unsuccessfully) senatorial candidate Estes Kefauver as a tool of Communism. The reader interested in Memphis and Tennessee politics will find this book informative.

The author's reliance upon scraps of information in Crump's papers, however, leads to two weaknesses. First, Miller's judgments too often reflect uncritically the pro-Crump views of his sources. The author maintains that Crump was "truthful" in denying "direct knowledge" of the means used to register Negro voters (p. 103). Given Crump's detailed knowledge concerning other phases of Tennessee politics, this assertion is debatable at best. Similarly, Miller does not try to determine the extent of ballot-box stuffing by the Crump machine. Finally, the reader finds Crump called upon to "engineer a compromise" to determine the House leadership in Washington in 1933. Crump had no such authority; and the man named majority leader was Joseph Byrns of Tennessee, not Byrnes, as the author (and his source, the notes of Crump's secretary) would have us believe (p. 179).

Second, Miller is unable to resist trivia. The reader is regaled (p. 39) with love letters from various suitors to Crump's future wife; he reads (pp. 125-26) letters from an aide of Crump's describing Washington in World War I; and he is told (p. 169) that Crump's sons loved their parents. Yet these passages give no insight, respectively, into the character of Mrs. Crump, into Crump's views on World War I, or into Crump as a parent. These and similar passages might better have been omitted.

Indiana University

James T. Patterson

The Talkative President: The Off-the-Record Press Conferences of Calvin Coolidge. Edited by Howard H. Quint and Robert H. Ferrell. (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1964. Pp. xi, 276. Index. \$6.00.)

"Silent Cal" Coolidge has never been an easy man to interpret. His personal papers in the Library of Congress are disappointingly thin, while his published writings run to the platitudinous and didactic. Had he nothing to say? Was he a virtual nonentity? Biographies by William Allen White and Claude M. Fuess (written about twenty-five years ago) are excellent in some respects, and they reject so critical a view of Coolidge. The present volume affords the best opportunity yet to appraise his ideas on a variety of subjects. Having learned of Coolidge's off-the-record press conferences, the editors succeeded in finding typed transcripts deposited in the Forbes Library in Northampton, Massachusetts. They have included in their volume about one sixth of the transcript material.

The press conferences began in August, 1923, and occurred twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, throughout Coolidge's years in the White House. This allegedly silent little man from Vermont was the first President to formalize the White House news conference. A dozen