

## Book Reviews

*Electioneering in a Democracy: Campaigns for Congress.* By David A. Leuthold. (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1968. Pp. 150. Notes, tables, appendices, index. Paperbound, \$2.95; clothbound, \$6.95.)

The book is a study of the details, mechanics, problems, and intricacies of congressional campaigns in 1962 in ten California districts, all in the San Francisco Bay area. It is certainly a useful contribution to the field of political literature. But, as is often the case, much of its value is in being an account of what was, and not of what is, let alone of what will be. Six years mean many figures go out of date.

There is also the caveat that what applies in one part of the country is by no means always applicable in others, and the author gives this warning in the Introduction. Regional and local considerations can do a great deal in shaping campaigns for any public office. If the book is read with the thought constantly in mind that "it ain't necessarily so" when it comes to the United States as a whole, then the reader will be proceeding from a valid and necessary first premise.

This reviewer believes the author makes the task of the incumbent, who must defend his seat against a challenger, look much easier than it really is. It is true that the incumbent has several built-in factors at his disposal. For instance, by virtue of being a seated congressman, he is naturally sought out and given more publicity through the two years before an election than is his opponent. But it is no exaggeration to say that in the great majority of cases, a newly elected (or newly reelected) member of Congress begins his campaign the day after the election itself. He knows that somewhere in his district a potential challenger is waiting and ready. Every move, vote, and statement of his total congressional service will be scrutinized and torn apart at campaign time. He knows, too, that when challenged, he will be basically on the defensive and will be running on a record that his opponent will be battering from every conceivable angle. Few incumbents feel safe enough to rest easily, for "He who does not run scared just *might* run second!"

The author is a political scientist, and with all due respect to his own scholarship and the hard work he put into his book, the term "political science" is itself somewhat misleading. "Science" means precision and rules and theorems of unquestionable validity, and a body of disciplined knowledge operating on predictable premises. "Political art" would be far more accurate for, indeed, politics *is* much more art than science.

The book should certainly be read by anyone who contemplates running for Congress. For the general reader interested in the political prize rings that are set up around the country every two years, it does a good job of presenting an accurate, overall picture of just what "arts" must be practiced and what must go into that period of a few weeks of frantic activity known as the election campaign.

*Martinsville, Indiana, Sixth District*

Congressman William G. Bray