

scholarly fare. But Glad has put together a volume which is exactly what it claims to be: a profile both of Bryan and of the enduring ambiguity of his relationship with historians.

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*Congressional Insurgents and the Party System, 1909-1916.* By James Holt. *Harvard Historical Monographs*, LX. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1967. Pp. viii, 188. Notes, bibliography, index. \$5.50.)

*Spearheads for Reform: The Social Settlements and the Progressive Movement, 1890-1914.* By Allen F. Davis. *Urban Life in America* Series. Edited by Richard C. Wade. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967. Pp. xviii, 322. Note on sources, notes, index. \$7.50.)

James Holt's book is an inconclusive survey of the difficulties of the Republican insurgents at the beginning of this century. The author attempts to explain the political independence of such figures as Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin, George Norris of Nebraska, and Albert J. Beveridge of Indiana. His view of party cohesiveness and discipline, which may well come from his own New Zealand origins, leads Holt to conclude, in one case, that "La Follette must surely rank as one of the greatest fragmenters of the epoch" (p. 150) without allowing him to see the continuous process of "fragmentation" and re-formation of coalitions that the insurgents helped reinforce in the American party system.

A scattering of very interesting insights makes the book valuable as, for instance, the recognition that most of the insurgents came from one party, "safe," Republican states, which helps explain their Republicanism, their initial party regularity, and their growing frustration with parties as their own desires for reform and their personal ambitions increased. But as a "study of the insurgents' role in the party system" (p. viii) the book is limited by Holt's almost exclusive concern with the insurgents' inability to control a party organization or a party program. The book argues that, failing to control, the insurgents were forced into party regularity, political individualism without influence on parties, or fruitless political fragmentation. It ignores insurgent influence on party leaders, the fluidity the insurgents introduced into the constituent coalitions of the parties, and the effects of the reactions of party leaders to insurgent independence.

Allen Davis' *Spearheads for Reform*, an effort to assess "the impact of settlement workers on the reform movements of the progressive era" (p. xi), is a much more successful book. Davis begins by persuasively chiding some eminent historians of the progressive era for oversimplifying the motives of reformers. He concentrates his own efforts on small groups and individuals, making the complexity of their actions and motives amply clear. He makes a subtle comparison of turn-of-the-century reformers and present young reformers which helps the reader catch something of the enthusiasm of the

young men and women who "brooded and read" but "longed to do something concrete to solve social problems" (p. 10-11). These young people were "troubled by the contrast of wealth and poverty" they saw around them, and "concerned because most of the people" they knew "accepted or ignored the contrast" (p. 14-15).

After introducing the major actors and the original impetus in settlement work, Davis deals topically with the successes and failures of the settlement movement. While the device of topics, like "Immigrants and Negroes" and "Working Women and Children," permits a detailed and careful examination of important areas of settlement concern, it confuses the sequence of events, forces considerable repetition on the author, and gives too even a picture of the settlement effort. The settlement worker's urgent sense of immediacy and the confusion with which he had to deal is lost in the author's effort to obtain clear judgment by taking one topic at a time.

The list of urban reforms Davis shows as attributable to settlement workers is long and impressive. He is careful to acknowledge that in many cases—as with the development of kindergartens—the settlements did not originate the ideas, but they were instrumental in demonstrating their usefulness in dealing with urban problems and in getting their acceptance on a wide scale. His thesis that the settlements were "spearheads" of urban reform is justified by his arguments from a mass of information, much of it relatively unused by other historians. The book can certainly be useful to those concerned with urban affairs today, and it is a careful, authoritative examination and judgment of the role of settlement workers in early twentieth century urban reform.

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*Judicial Power and Reconstruction Politics.* By Stanley I. Kutler. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1968. Pp. ix, 178. Frontispiece, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$5.95.)

In deciding the Dred Scott case so as to support slavery in the territories, the Supreme Court brought down upon itself throughout the North wrathful criticism that did not soon subside. During the Civil War, and even the postwar years, hostility persisted toward the southern and "dough-face" judges who, it was said, had perverted their judicial powers. When old Chief Justice Roger B. Taney died in 1864, one remark was: "Better late than never."

According to most historians, the consequence of the Court's unfortunate intrusion into the politics of slavery was a greatly weakened position in American government that extended well into the era of Reconstruction. Thus it became timid, if not docile and impotent, at a time of great constitutional stress and strain; and it meekly stood aside as one Radical measure after another bent the Constitution rather badly.