

Con-Con: Issues for the Illinois Constitutional Convention. Papers prepared by the Constitutional Research Group. Directed by Samuel K. Gove; edited by Victoria Ranney. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1970. Pp. XII, 512. Notes, selected bibliographies, appendices, indices. Paperbound, \$1.95.) „

This is a collection of eighteen background papers written by political scientists, law teachers, and lawyers to stimulate independent thinking by the delegates to the Illinois Constitutional Convention which convened in Springfield on December 8, 1969. The book's purpose obviously is not to prepare a proposed draft of a new constitution but to furnish 1970 ideas and guidelines to delegates seeking to replace the document produced by the last successful effort in 1870.

To review each paper separately would be of little value. The net result of the collection is the presentation of a broad range of historical facts, methods, and policy considerations. Inevitably there is some repetition, but that does not detract from the value of the collection. For example, the paper on the legislative article would be incomplete without consideration of the consequences of the executive veto power. However, the paper on the executive article would be equally incomplete if no consideration was given to the executive veto. The paper on urban problems necessarily includes a discussion on public finance and the legal aspects of revenue although both of these topics are properly allotted their separate papers.

The first paper quite appropriately deals with the nature and purpose of the state constitution in general, making a case for brevity and the enunciation of principles and for leaving many details to the more flexible direction of the legislature. Even though a separate paper deals exclusively with a state Bill of Rights, the introductory paper points out that such a section may protect more strongly than the first eight amendments to the federal Constitution, in which the rights guaranteed have gradually been extended to state action under the Fourteenth Amendment.

The paper on the General Assembly discusses the unique Illinois method of electing members to the House of Representatives under the present constitution. In each of fifty-nine districts one senator and three representatives are elected. In electing members of the House each voter has three votes. Instead of voting for three candidates, however, he may cast his three votes for only one. The result of this cumulative voting system has been to make the typical party division in the House a very close thing.

The remaining papers cover a broad variety of topics. In one, the problems of guaranteeing civil rights are carefully explored, and the historical background, both federal and state, is reviewed. In

another the various aspects of the right of suffrage—such as age, citizenship, residence, and literacy—are surveyed, and comparisons with requirements in other states are noted. In a third the method of judicial selection and removal and the organization of the courts are discussed, and some recommendations are suggested. Local government outside Cook County (Chicago) is adequately covered, but the ever increasing problems of urban government and what a constitution should do about them receives major attention. The controversial issue of how much “home rule” local government should have is thoughtfully presented. Of course all these problems are inextricably intertwined with the methods of public finance and the legal aspects of revenue and the methods of taxation and exemption therefrom. The discussions on these topics produce more problems than answers.

Three papers deal with regulation of business, namely, corporations, banks and warehouses, and transportation. The paper on regulation of transportation points out the problems raised by any attempted repeal of the tax provisions in the charter of the Illinois Central. The paper on education raises the question of the necessity for a constitutional article on education and criticizes some of the content of the article in the present constitution. The dilemma seems really to be over which elements of the problem are so fundamental that they should be set out in the constitution and which should be left to the legislature. The final paper deals with the amending process.

This collection, while focused on the problems facing the Illinois constitution makers, deals with fundamentals and will be of inestimable value to constitution makers in other states.

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Stump, Bar, and Pulpit: Speechmaking on the Missouri Frontier. By Frances Lea McCurdy. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1969. Pp. xiii, 218. Illustration, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

From the pulpit, the bar, the commencement platform, and the stump, two generations of speakers captivated audiences on the Missouri frontier with their colorful metaphors, earthy humor, and homely illustrations. Utilizing the thesis that “the process of testing and popularizing ideas of democracy is most clearly traced in the rhetoric of the frontier speaker” (p. xi), Frances McCurdy analyzes a significant number of formal and informal speeches delivered between 1803 and 1850. Noting the assumptions, reasoning, strate-