

maintained its own organization, one which was not satisfied with the watered down abolitionism of the Free Soilers and was always open to black membership and participation. To recognize the presence of racism among the Free Soilers is not to demean them or to underestimate their commitments or their achievements. Rather it is to humanize them and to recognize some of the unsavory attitudes and values of American society of that era, attitudes and values shared by reformers and nonreformers alike.

While Blue's study is an admirable political monograph, it might have been enriched somewhat if the author had considered more fully the milieu of American society in the midnineteenth century, especially that of romantic reform. And because this is largely a study of leadership, Blue might have searched more deeply for the roots of the moral commitments and the ambitions of these very interesting men. Where did they stand, for instance, on reforms other than antislavery? How did they react to the land reform movement? How and to what extent were they influenced by their religious experiences and by the changing patterns of religious thought? This is not to suggest, however, that the book is flawed by any serious omissions. The task that the author proposes he does exceedingly well. He has written a scholarly book based on thorough research, one that cannot be overlooked by those in search of enlightenment on the political side of the antislavery movement.

*Southern Illinois University,
Edwardsville*

Patrick Riddleberger

The Captain Departs: Ulysses S. Grant's Last Campaign.
By Thomas M. Pitkin. Foreword by John Y. Simon.
(Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1973.
Pp. xix, 164. Illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliographical note, index. \$6.95.)

This attractive little book covers the last year of Ulysses S. Grant's life, when he raced against cancer to complete his memoirs. The author discusses the manner in which Grant wrote, and the details of publication, with considerable attention to the ambitions of the people around the former President. Mark Twain and Adam Badeau make familiar

appearances, but Frederick Grant emerges as a significant factor in his father's affairs. The author does not treat Grant's illness in much detail. This could have been a fascinating study of how doctors treated a famous patient in the nineteenth century. As a former National Park historian Pitkin is also interested in efforts to make a national shrine of the cottage at Mount McGregor, New York, where Grant died.

Despite some gaps in coverage the book captures much of Grant's personal attractiveness and shows again what a potent symbol he was for many Americans. The book also suggests the need for more detailed studies of many aspects of his career. The time has surely come, for instance, for a genuine full length biography based on a careful reading of all sources. Detailed studies of the administration, especially of party politics, would alter many stereotypes. This book is a good beginning for understanding something of the man. The President awaits his historians.

University of Oklahoma, Norman

H. Wayne Morgan

Mr. Republican: A Biography of Robert A. Taft. By James T. Patterson. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1972. Pp. xvi, 749. Illustrations, bibliographical note, notes, index. \$12.50.)

The Taft family has been fortunate in its choice of biographers. In the 1930s the family selected Henry Pringle as the "authorized" biographer of President William Howard Taft. The result, published in two volumes in 1939, remains the fullest treatment of the twenty-seventh President. In 1967 the Tafts turned to James T. Patterson, historian and author of *Congressional Conservatism and the New Deal* (1967) and *The New Deal and the States* (1969) to produce the biography of Senator Robert A. Taft. The result is *Mr. Republican*, a judicious, well written, thoroughly researched study, which, despite Patterson's disclaimer, is as nearly definitive as any biography can be. In addition, reflecting the profession's current interest in psychohistory, the author occasionally and cautiously probes Taft's psyche.

For the first time Taft's political philosophy emerges clearly. No longer may detractors label him a cold reaction-