

VOX POP

The Newsletter of

Political
Organizations &
Parties

A Continuing Subfield of the American Political Science Association

PRESIDENT, 1984- William Crotty, Northwestern University

SECRETARY, 1984- Andrew J. Nathanson, Columbia University

PREVIOUS CHAIR, 1981-1983: Kenneth Janda, Northwestern University

Vol. 2, No. 3 Northwestern University; Evanston, Illinois 60201 Fall-Winter, 1983-1984

A Letter From The Editor:

I am pleased to begin my tenure as chair of the Political Organizational Parties (POP) subsection of the American Political Science Association with this issue. We have been fortunate that my two able predecessors, Ken Janda most recently and prior to Ken, John Bibby, were able to place the group on a sound organizational and funding basis. Under John and Ken we have mapped out our interests, created a group based on common intellectual concerns, and solidified our position within the American Political Science Association.

My own belief is that our common bond is an intellectual concern with developing a substantive area of major concern to the discipline and to social science. I would like to devote my energies primarily to achieving common intellectual concerns and pursuits. Towards this end, I would like to explore over the next year or so the possibility of launching a journal dedicated to our mutual concerns.

Ken Janda has spent a considerable amount of effort in exploring this possibility. Ken followed up on the work done by Kay Lawson (University of San Francisco) and Jerome Mileur (University of Massachusetts) who approached the M.I.T. Press in 1980. I had the opportunity to sit in on some of the meetings Ken held. We believe such a journal would do well enough financially to justify its continued publication. Substantively and intellectually, we believe the time is ripe for such an undertaking. Our discussions indicate that midwifing a new journal will not be easy. As a first step, I would appreciate each member with access to a university (in particular) or a commercial publisher who might be interested in such a project to explore with the university or commercial publisher their interest in such a joint undertaking. Please contact me and let me know which university press (or commercial publisher) has indicated an interest and we can move on from there. Our most immediately applicable model in this regard is the Legislative Studies Quarterly, published by the Department of Political Science of the University of Iowa (the notices on the journal that have appeared in previous issues of VOX POP are reproduced at the end of this note to supply background information).

A second idea I would like some response to and comment on is the possibility of POP sponsoring meetings or seminars, at the APSA or elsewhere, to discuss research trends and needs, fundings, and possible joint undertakings in areas of common concern. POP would convene the meetings on topics of relevance, perhaps commission several papers to outline the problems or trends in the area and to serve as a basis for discussion. Topics could range from theoretical models for party coalitional dispersal to PAC funding in House races, local party activities, decision-making in interest group resource allocation, democratic elections in other nations, or whatever. Let me hear from you on this proposal. Possibly, the meeting papers could be reproduced and distributed as part of this newsletter.

With this our agenda, let us (with the emphasis on us) begin.

Sincerely,

William Crotty

From VOX POP, Spring 1982, p. 4.

Status Report on Proposed Journal

In early 1980, POP's Secretary, Kay Lawson (San Francisco State), took the leadership in developing a proposal for a new journal, Political Organization, to reflect and serve the scholarly interests of our membership. In conjunction with Jerome Mileur (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), she approached MIT Press with a formal proposal. Answering MIT's questionnaire, they noted that no American journal focuses on all forms of political organizations. Moreover, existing political science journals, when they publish related articles, have a bias toward survey methods, quantitative analysis, the current, and conventional politics. Political Organization "would focus more broadly on political groups, institutions, and structures, more specifically on law, reform, and change, and embrace greater diversity of method--historical, theoretical, etc." Offered as a model was Legislative Studies Quarterly, a fine journal that has helped define the field it serves.

The Journals Editor of MIT Press, Ann Reinke, was quite interested in the project and undertook her own investigation of the potential manuscript pool, the possible circulation, and the general growth of the field. Lawson stimulated additional support for the journal from prominent scholars and built up quite a correspondence file with Reinke during 1980 and 1981. Unfortunately, we learned just before the 1981 APSA Convention and our last Business Meeting that MIT Press would not undertake the publication of Political Organization due to existing commitments and difficult economic times. However, Reinke promised to provide the positive results of their feasibility study for approaching other publishers.

Having done more than her share in promoting the journal project, Lawson requested that someone else in POP try his or her hand at finding a publisher and asked Ann Reinke to forward her material to Kenneth Janda, the new Chair of POP. Reinke sent the material along with a very supportive letter last January 11. In MIT's opinion, the proposed journal might be able to capture from three to five percent of the circulation of existing journals. "Further, we felt that over five years the journal, with a recognized imprint, would establish a good institutional base, even though libraries are increasingly resistant to new journals." Due to other duties, this matter has laid dormant for some weeks, but letters are going out to journal managers that Reinke suggested at the University of Chicago, John Wiley, Johns Hopkins, Wisconsin, Texas, Princeton, Yale, and North Carolina. If POP members have any ideas on publishing Political Organization, please write. A progress report will be made at the Business Meeting of Political Organizations/Parties in Denver this September.

From VOX POP, Fall 1982, pp. 4-5.

The Status of POP's Proposed Journal

The Spring issue of VOX POP traced the history of POP's efforts to create a new journal, Political Organization, which reflected the interests of POP's members. Acting on a proposal by Kay Lawson and Jerome Mileur (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), MIT Press conducted a market analysis, which favorably evaluated the proposal, but MIT reluctantly declined to publish it due to existing commitments. At MIT's suggestion and with supporting materials, I wrote eight other publishers during the summer. Some were not at all interested, others indicated interest only if the publication were subsidized, and only the University of Wisconsin Press wrote to say it was still considering the proposal. Subsequently, I contacted Northwestern University, which has recently emerged from a deep sleep, and received some encouragement. NU Press is at present considering our proposal for a scholarly journal, and I will report developments in the next issue of VOX POP.

At the POP Business Meeting this September, Ralph Goldman (San Francisco State) proposed that we consider publishing a different kind of journal. I asked him to write up his ideas for VOX POP, and he kindly responded with the contribution below. I invite reactions to his proposal.

A "Slick" Periodical for POP? by Ralph Goldman

Scholarly journals of the quarterly publication type continue to proliferate. Library and professional subscription budgets continue to shrink. New forms and media for publishing scientific and scholarly research, e.g., microfiche, computer files, etc., continue to develop. Perhaps this is an opportune time for POP to think of alternatives to the standard academic journal as its publishing vehicle. Perhaps POP should try to break out of the tiny professional readership and reach for additional audiences that may be ready to be informed about our fascinating subject-matter in a popular and readable periodical format. The model I have in mind is Psychology Today.

Let me reaffirm my support for Political Organization as proposed by Kay Lawson and Jerome Mileur, for all the reasons recognized by the referees who commented to MIT Press: a growing subfield of political science; a distinct area of scholarship; a need to encourage first-rate research in this field; etc. However, I have long pondered the larger need for bringing the educated public, journalists, academics outside the political science / sociology / history network, officials of political organizations and parties, and others closer to the exciting topics and research we do. After all, parties, interest groups, political movements, neighborhood organizations, etc. are among the most dynamic features of political life, and only two or three David Broders carry systematic knowledge about them beyond the halls of academe. What Psychology Today has done for that discipline should be the goal of a comparable Political Organization Today.

Admittedly, this is a whole other enterprise than what Kay and Jerry propose, requiring much more money, readership, market analysis, advertising budgets, and all the rest. We have the subject-matter and the knowledge. We probably have the reportorial and writing talent concealed behind those journal articles. What may be worth looking for is an enterprising and experienced publisher who can tell use more about the tribulations and triumphs of "slick" publications.

NOTICE:

1. POP is now an official subfield of the American Political Science Association.
2. As of the 1983 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association has a new Constitution.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We need to elect a new Executive Committee of eight members. Please send me the names of those you wish to nominate by April 1st. These will appear in the next issue of the POP Newsletter along with a ballot for a mail vote.

Name of nominee for a POP Executive Committee: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Nominator: _____

Once elected, four will be selected by lot for two year terms and four for one year terms. After that, each year four will be elected to serve the full two year term.

SEND TO: Professor William Crotty
 Department of Political Science
 403 Scott Hall
 1890 Sheridan Road
 Northwestern University
 Evanston, Illinois 60201

DUES-PAYING MEMBERS OF POP AS OF FALL, 1983

ABRAMSON, PAUL R.
 ADRIAN, CHARLES R.
 ARRINGTON, THEODORE S.
 BAER, MICHAEL A.
 BENEDICT, KENNETTE
 BRAMS, STEVEN J.
 CHANDLER, JAMES A.
 CLARK, JANET M.
 CONWAY, M. MARGARET
 COTTER, CORNELIUS P.
 COURTNEY, J. C.
 DAVIDSON, ROGER H.
 ELDER, ANN
 EPSTEIN, EDWIN
 EPSTEIN, LEON D.
 FAIRCHILD, DONALD L.
 GIBSON, JAMES L.
 GITELSON, ALAN
 GOLDMAN, RALPH M.
 GOODWIN, GEORGE, JR.
 GOULD, LEWIS L.
 HADLEY, CHARLES D.
 HARMEL, ROBERT
 HENNESSY, BERNARD
 HREBENAR, RONALD J.

HUCKSHORN, ROBERT J.
 JACKSON, JOHN S.
 JANDA, KENNETH
 KATZ, RICHARD
 KELLEY, RICHARD C.
 KLONOSKI, JIM
 LADD, EVERETT CARLL JR.
 LATIMER, MARGARET
 LIJPHART, AREND
 LONGLEY, LAWRENCE D.
 MANHEIM, JAROL
 MARTIS, KENNETH C.
 MAYHEW, DAVID R.
 MCCLURE, ROBERT
 MCFARLAND, ANDREW
 MCNITT, ANDREW D.
 MILEUR, JEROME M.
 MURRAY, RICHARD
 NASSMACHER, KARL H.
 NATHAN, ANDREW J.
 PALLEY, MARIAN LIEF
 PATTERSON, SAMUEL C.
 PEABODY, ROBERT L.
 PEAK, G. WAYNE
 PERKINS, JERRY

PETRACCA, MARK P.
 POMPER, GERALD
 PORTER, LAURELLEN
 REITER, HOWARD L.
 ROCKWOOD, IRVING E.
 ROSENSTONE, STEVEN J.
 RUBIN, RICHARD L.
 SARTORI, GIOVANNI
 SAVAGE, ROBERT L.
 SCHONFELD, WILLIAM R.
 SITTIG, ROBERT
 SMITH, PAUL A.
 SMITH, RICHARD A.
 SMITH, ROLAND E.
 SMOLKA, RICHARD G.
 SPRAGENS, WILLIAM C.
 STONE, CLARENCE N.
 WALD, KENNETH
 WALKER, JACK L.
 WALTON, HANES JR.
 WALTZER, HERBERT
 WATTIER, MARK
 WIKSTROM, NELSON
 WILLIAMS, STEVEN D.
 YOUNG, ROY

UPCOMING PANELS SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE ON PARTY RENEWAL

1. Southwestern Political Science Association, Fort Worth, Texas
March 21-24, 1984.
 - "Party Renewal in America"
 - Chair: Charles D. Hadley, University of New Orleans
 - Papers: Michael A. Maggiotto, University of South Carolina
"Ideological Awareness and Presidential Campaigning: Inferences from 1980."
 - Dennis W. Gleiber, Memphis State University
"Rational Voting in Wisconsin's Gubernatorial Election."
 - John K. White, SUNY-Potsdam and Dwight Morris, Louis Harris and Associates
"Party Images in the 1980s: Restoration or Ruin?"

2. New York State Political Science Association Meeting, Albany, New York
April 6-7, 1984.
 - "The State of the State Parties"
 - Chair: John K. White, SUNY Potsdam
 - Papers: John K. White, SUNY-Potsdam and Dwight Morris, Louis Harris and Associates
"The Upside Down Electorate."
 - Howard Scarrow, SUNY-Stony Brook
"The State of the State Parties."
 - Robert Spitzer, SUNY-Cortland
"Viable Democracy or the French Fourth Republic: New York's Minor Party System."
 - Discussants: Gerald Benjamin, SUNY-New Paltz
Paul Smith, SUNY-Binghamton
William Powers, Senator Alfonse D'Amato's office
 - "Cogwheels of Democracy in a Microchip Age: Local Parties in the 1980s"
 - Chair: Calvin F. Exoo, St. Lawrence University
 - Papers: Mary Ellen Balchunis, Temple University
"Fighting the Goode Fight: The Philadelphia Democratic Party's Role in a Mayoral Campaign."
 - Alan Draper, St. Lawrence University
"After the Party: Labor in the Post-Partisan Era."
 - James Gesualdi, St. Lawrence University
"Have Political Machines Withered Away? and Other Revisionist Questions."
 - Raymond Owen, University of Pittsburgh
"Effects of Turnout in an Urban Machine Arena."
 - James Reidel, SUNY-Albany
"The Rise and Fall of Political Machines in Albany"
 - Discussant: Peter W. Colby, SUNY-Binghamton

3. New England Political Science Association Meeting, Newport, Rhode Island
April 13-14, 1984.

A roundtable on the status of the Republican parties in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Panelists include John A. Holmes, Jr., chairman Rhode Island Republican Party; Andrew Natsios, chairman Massachusetts Republican Party; Thomas J. D'Amore, Jr., chairman Connecticut Republican Party; Victor Profughi, political scientist, Rhode Island College; and Neil T. Romans, political scientist, Providence College. John White will chair the roundtable.

4. Southern Political Science Association Meeting, Savannah, Georgia
November 1-3, 1984.

Those who might be interested in participating in a CPR-sponsored panel should send their paper proposals to Professor Frank Feigert, Department of Political Science, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas 76203.

NOTE: If you would like the Committee for Party Renewal to act as a co-sponsor of a political science association panel, please contact Professor Jerome Mileur, Executive Director of the Committee for Party Renewal, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003.