

PRESIDENCY RESEARCH GROUP NEWSLETTER



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PRG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Vice President: George Edwards, Texas A & M
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Spring 1984 Issue of the PRG Newsletter

Deadline for submissions is May 1 with probable completion by May 21. All submissions are welcome: substantive research, teaching notes, research aids in form of sharing experiences useful to other researchers. In particular, people following 1984 election subjects (media coverage, campaign strategies, party rules, etc.) are urged to submit brief pieces (5-6 pages) on areas of interest.

News from the 1983 Annual Business Meeting

Outgoing President, Steve Wayne, conducted the meeting which included election of new officers and members of the Steering Committee. New members, approved unanimously, are Valerie Bunce, John Kessel, Norman Thomas and Michael Nelson. Martha Kumar's report emphasized expansion in membership and financial solvency; our total of 224 members is up from 192 at last year's meeting and we ended the year with a surplus of \$339.81 (before the convention cocktail party!).

We sponsored two panels at the APSA convention, a reflection of our success in getting a significant number of panels included in the regular program. Our largest single expense is the Newsletter which cost approximately \$400 in 1983 for typing, reproduction and mailing. Membership solicitation and reminders on delinquent dues cost approximately \$55 each.

Doris Graber, APSA Program Chairperson for 1984, attended the meeting to answer questions regarding presidency panels at next year's convention. The association has merged the legislative and presidency areas with Linda Fowler designated to head the combined section. We have been assured that there will be no limit placed on the number of panels although the optimum size will be ten panels per section. At the 1983 convention, the executive and legislative areas had a combined total of 23 panels, up from 16 just four years ago. Because the council felt there were marked similarities between executives and legislatures and as a result of the concern regarding a decrease in panel attendance flowing from recent proliferation, it was decided to combine the two sections. Other research areas similarly affected were ethnic groups/gender groups (combined with interest groups) and one area in comparative politics.

We will still be able to sponsor our own panels through the unofficial program. During discussion, it was pointed out that Cal MacKenzie will have to negotiate with a large number of section heads in an effort to get panels relevant to our group members' interests and that attendance at PRG panels has been quite strong. It is assumed that the PRG will sponsor a larger number of panels for 1984 but these will have to be "coordinated" with the central program committee.

On the question of formal affiliation with the APSA, a resolution to table the motion was approved unanimously when it became clear that there were many questions which remained unanswered. Among others, 57 of the PRG's individual members are not APSA members. There has been some discussion of developing a category of associate membership for these people, but this option remains unclear. Similarly, it is not certain that the APSA would cover the costs of our Newsletter, the group's principal expense. Frank Rourke indicated that conversations were likely to continue with Tom Mann.

Finally, Steve Wayne recommended, and it was unanimously approved, that we increase dues to \$7.00 for a two-year period. This will provide a financial cushion for the organization and cut down on expenses incurred from chasing delinquent accounts. Checks should be made out to Presidency Research Group and mailed to Michael Grossman, Department of Political Science, Towson State University, Baltimore, Maryland, 21204.

Update on 1984 Program

Cal MacKenzie reports that he currently has six PRG-sponsored panels fairly well set. Titles and chairs are as follows:

Presidential Libraries and Presidential Studies: Old and New
Research Agendas - Larry Berman
New Directions in Presidential Scholarship - Michael Nelson

Media Coverage of the 1984 Election - Dom Bonafede
Presidential Transitions: Taking Over the Government -
James Pfiffner
Roundtable: Economic Policy-making in the White House -
Roger Porter
Predicting Presidential Performance - Darrell West

Most of these are likely to be on the unofficial program. Panels on the official program, being handled by Linda Fowler of Syracuse University, remain uncertain at the present time. Of the expected panels, Pfiffner and West might still welcome suggestions for papers.

Call for Papers

Expanded Symposium On "The Presidency and Public Policy," edited by George Edwards, Steven Shull, and Norman Thomas, Policy Studies Journal, 12 (June 1984).

We have now finished editing the symposium on this topic scheduled to appear in the June 1984 issue of the Policy Studies Journal (outline below). We have contracted with Kennikat Press for a book length extension and therefore are in need of additional papers. It will be fairly inexpensive as scholarly works go and may be adopted in some courses. Because the volume is scheduled to appear early in 1985, we have established May 1, 1984 as the cut-off date for receiving finished papers.

We encourage the submission of analytical treatments of the presidency and public policy. Our conception of the area is a broad one and includes work on the president's handling of substantive policy areas, research focusing on policy making, including agenda-setting, advising, analysis of options, decision making, and implementation, and essays focused on approaches to the topic of the presidency and public policy. Papers should be no longer than 30 double-spaced typed manuscript pages, including footnotes and references, in

the PSJ format. Prospective contributors should send their submissions to each of the editors listed below:

George C. Edwards III
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Symposium on "The Presidency and Public Policy," edited by George Edwards, Steven Shull, and Norman Thomas, Policy Studies Journal, 12 (June, 1984).

1. Editors' Introduction
2. Thomas, Dan and Lee Sigelman, "Presidential Identification and Policy Leadership: Experimental Evidence on the Reagan Case."
3. Page, Benjamin I. and Robert Y. Shapiro, "Presidents as Opinion Leaders: Some New Evidence."
4. Ostrom Jr., Charles W. and Dennis M. Simon, "Managing Popular Support: The Presidential Dilemma."
5. Weatherford, M. Stephen, "Role of Presidential Ideology in Economic Policy Making."
6. Burke, John P., "Do Presidential Influence and Strategy Count? Explaining Variation in the Reagan Budget Cycles 1981-83."
7. Wyszomirski, Margaret J., "A Domestic Policy Office: Presidential Office in Search of a Role."
8. Anderson, James E., "Economic Policy Formation in the Carter and Johnson Administrations: The Case of Wage - Price Guidelines."

Personal Notes/Announcements

James D. Calder, University of Texas - San Antonio, presented a paper entitled, "Federal Prison Reforms in the Early 1930's: The Contributions of President Herbert Hoover and Sanford Bates" at the annual conference of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences held March 22-26, 1983. The work is part of a series of studies on Hoover's crime control policies.

