

PRG NEWSLETTER

This is the first issue of the Newsletter of the Presidential Research Group (PRG) formed at the last APSA Convention. Since this Newsletter will be sent to many who were not present at that meeting, the rationale for the creation of this group should be stated. Some of us felt that research on the presidency was not receiving sufficient opportunity on APSA programs and regional meetings. Beyond that, it was felt that a good deal of research on the presidency was being conducted and that exchange was desirable. Also, that research on the presidency is diverse and seems to lack common foci, and perhaps these could be discovered by creating new opportunities for communication.

With these objectives in mind, it was decided to organize several panels and a roundtable for the next APSA Convention in Washington, D.C. Fred Greenstein, Stephen Wayne and Tom Cronin are the program committee to plan these panels and the roundtable. It was also decided to publish a newsletter twice this year, to disseminate research interests of scholars on the presidency. In forming the PRG, we were inspired by the example of the Legislative Process, Behavior and Representation Group now in its second year of activity. The next issue of PS should contain an announcement about the PRG. We hope that our next issue will contain a much larger list of those engaged in presidential research. To that end, please spread the word to others and invite them to join us.

Lester G. Seligman  
University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign

FEBRUARY, 1979

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THE PRESIDENCY AND THE BUREAUCRACY

Prof. Frances Rourke at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., is starting a project on the relations between the Presidency and bureaucratic agencies with strong constituencies.

Prof. William Lammers of USC is undertaking several analyses of strategies for president watching. "This research is motivated by the conviction that president watching by key constituents is both an important and impossible skill." An initial project is underway with Ross Clayton, a colleague at USC.

## PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION

Prof. Stephen J. Wayne, of George Washington University, is currently working on a book on the presidential selection process. The focus is on "the changes in party rules, campaign finances and media usage over the last ten years" and their impact on the election of the President. The book is scheduled to be published by St. Martin's Press in early 1980. Future plans include resumption of research on Congressional-White House liaison and the use of new technology in this relationship.

Prof. Peri Arnold, at the University of Notre Dame is conducting research on the history and uses of executive reorganization by Presidents in this century. "It is being funded by one of the Ford Foundation's grants for the study of the Presidency."

## PRESIDENTIAL STAFF

Prof. Kirk Emmert of Kenyon College is doing research on the Ford Domestic Council. Prof. Emmert worked for a year and one half in the Ford White House; his research is based on interviews with the principal members of the Ford Domestic Council. The particular aspirations and problems of the Ford Council are compared with the original Nixon conception of the Domestic Council and recent literature on the subject.

Prof. Lester Seligman, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is conducting research on Presidential institutionalization. He is concerned with formulating a theory of the process, comparing economic, science and environmental advice. The focus of the study is the innovation and institutionalization of new presidential roles and related advisory agencies. Interviews and some primary sources in presidential libraries are being used. He is also working on Presidential coalitions, both electoral and governing.

Professor Joseph Pika, of SUNY at Buffalo, has completed his dissertation on the development of the Presidential Office for Congressional liaison.

Prof. Larry Berman of the University of California at Davis is working on a study of presidential advising systems in the JFK and LBJ administrations, using primary source materials from presidential libraries and interviews. Berman is also working on a paper on how political scientists can utilize presidential libraries and on developments in OMB during the Carter Administration.

## WINNING AND GOVERNING

Prof. Jeff Fishel, currently a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center of the Smithsonian Institution, is doing research on "Presidential Campaigns and Presidential Agendas." Examining the development and displacement of policy agendas on the context of the presidential struggle, focusing on coalitions and tensions among professional campaign personnel, party activists, policy advisors, mass media representatives and interest group leaders as

they compete to shape the issue focus of campaigns. Analyzes the extent to which presidential elections serve as agenda-setting and/or agenda ratifying institutions. Explores the case of platform commitments in the campaign. The project covers the last five elections, 1960-1976. Focused interviews with key participants, content analysis, and archival materials provide the data base.

#### PRESIDENTIAL-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS

Prof. Eric L. Davis, University of California, Berkeley. "My current research is on executive-legislative relations. I am focusing on the White House legislative liaison staff, and am attempting to determine how the recent institutional changes in Congress have affected White House responses to Capitol Hill."

#### PRESIDENTIAL DECISION MAKING

Prof. Michael G. Fullington at USC is doing research on presidential decision-making from the Truman administration to that of Nixon.

Prof. Fred Greenstein, Department of Politics, Princeton, is comparing decision making during the Truman and Eisenhower administrations to clarify and test hypotheses about whether and under what circumstances Presidential patterns of organizing presidential staff and advisory relationships affect the character of presidential decisions and decision-making. He is drawing on archival sources, notably those in the Truman and Eisenhower libraries, oral histories and interviews with participants in both administrations. The first stage of the larger study involves an in-depth study of Eisenhower's political style.

#### PERSONALITY STUDY AND PRIMARY GROUP

Prof. Barbara Kellerman, Tufts University, is doing research on the presidential family. An article with some of the ideas that derive from this research appears in Presidential Studies Quarterly, summer 1978.

#### THE PRESIDENCY AND ECONOMIC POLICIES

Prof. Norman Thomas, University of Cincinnati, is planning a study of macroeconomic policy making in the Nixon, Ford and possibly Carter administrations. Also, under rubric of 1787-1987 research program, he is conducting a more speculative inquiry into the future prospects of presidential government.

Prof. Erwin Hargrove at Vanderbilt University conducted a series of seminars there with former chairmen of the Council of Economic Advisors throughout the academic year 1977-78. Hargrove is working on a monograph on the CEA based on those seminars.

## RESEARCH RESOURCES

Prof. William Lammers, University of Southern California, is creating a presidential data bank covering the period since 1945. He is interested in developing sufficient data on routines in presidential politics to allow comparisons and systematic hypothesis testing. The frequency and regularity of press conference scheduling is being examined in relationship to changes in popularity ratings and the occurrence of embarrassing events. Projected analyses in this project include speaking schedules, political campaigning, and foreign travel.

## PRESIDENT AND THE JUDICIARY

Prof. Michael A. Genovese, California State University, Northridge, has been doing research on the President and the Judiciary. His research interests also include Presidential personality, the selection process and Presidential popularity.

## GENERAL

Prof. Dorothy B. James, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, is working on a book tentatively titled "Performance of the Contemporary Presidency."

Prof. Philippa Strum of Barnard College reports that the second edition of her *Presidential Power and American Democracy* will appear this spring.

Prof. Tom Cronin, Visiting Professor at the Colorado College is currently completing a much revised second edition of the State of the Presidency. He is also working on theories of presidential leadership, a study of the presidential pardon power and a study of the relationship of Presidents and their political parties.

Betty Glad's (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) study of Jimmy Carter will be published by W. W. Norton in 1979. She has done over 200 interviews and gone through his papers as Governor in preparing this first, full-length biography of the President. In addition to researching Carter's past, she has analyzed the political strategies and the rhetoric which contributed to his meteoric rise.

PS: Anyone interested in participating on the PRG panels is invited to write to Professors Greenstein (Princeton); Wayne (George Washington); and Cronin (Colorado College).

Our thanks to the Russell Sage Foundation and Byron E. Shafer, Director of Research on Institutions, for a contribution to support the publication of this newsletter and other costs of PRG.