

PRG NEWSLETTER

Vol. II, No. 2 May, 1980

This issue, the second this year, includes the schedule of the PRG sponsored panels organized by Dorothy James. These panels, together with those that John Kessel organized for the regular program, we are pleased to say, gives greater opportunity for the presentation of research on the presidency than ever before. As you recall, enlarging such opportunity was one of the original objectives in forming PRG. Please note the time and place of our business meeting and cocktail party. At our business meeting we will need to elect some new members of the steering committee for next year. Please send you nominations for these positions to Fred Greenstein at the Department of Political Science, Princeton University. At our business meeting we will also discuss some new developments and opportunities in the field and some organizational matters.

For this issue, in keeping with our policy of disseminating new ideas for research related to the presidency, we invited two members of PRG, Martha Weinberg, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at MIT and Richard Pious, Associate Professor, Barnard College of Columbia University to present their ideas. Professor Weinberg reported an innovative course she offered this past fall on Executive Leadership: Presidents, Governors and Mayors. We all know, that unlike students of legislative behavior, who use a comparative framework to investigate legislative processes on the state, national and cross-nationally, students of the presidency rarely investigate chief executives comparatively, except to compare presidents. Professor Weinberg's course and her experience breaks new ground for all of us. Professor Pious' comments give us much to think about in his criticism of the research on the presidency. Your reactions to both statements are invited.

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Panels on Presidential Politics (Section 9)
in the Regular Program

1980 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association,
Thursday, August 28 - Monday August 31, Washington Hilton Hotel

Panel 1. An Assessment of the Carter Administration

Chair: Richard E. Neustadt, Harvard University

Papers: A Democrat's Assessment of the Carter Administration,
Thomas E. Cronin, University of Delaware

A Republican's Assessment of the Carter Administration,
James Reichley, The Brookings Institution

A Journalist's Assessment of the Carter Administration,
Haynes Johnson, The Washington Post

Discussant: James S. Young, Miller Center of Public Affairs,
University of Virginia

Panel 2. Analyses of Economic Management

Chair: Lawrence C. Pierce, University of Oregon

Papers: Regulatory Performance and Presidential Administration,
Terry M. Moe, Michigan State University

Managing the Economy: The Johnson Administration Experience,
James E. Anderson, University of Houston

Inflation, Unemployment and Presidential Terms: When Can
Institutional Reform Improve Policy?
William R. Keech, University of North Carolina

Discussant: Kristen Monroe, New York University

Panel 3. Temporal and Comparative Perspectives on the Presidency

Chair: Dorothy B. James, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Papers: The President's Agenda: Notes on the Timing of Domestic Choice
Paul C. Light, University of Michigan

The President's Advisory System Under Carter: From Spokes
in a Wheel to Wagons in a Circle
Colin Campbell, York University

The Presidency in Comparative Perspective
Richard Rose, University of Strathclyde

Discussant: Bert A. Rockman, University of Pittsburgh

Panel 4. The President's Legislative Agenda

Chair: John H. Kessel, Ohio State University

Papers: The Impact of Political Periods on Presidential-Legislative
Success in Congress
Jeffrey E. Cohen, Colgate University

The Legislative Presidency of Lyndon Johnson
Lawrence C. Dodd and Terry Sullivan, University of Texas at Austin

The President as Policy-Maker: The "Arenas of Power" from
1954 to 1974
Robert J. Spitzer, SUNY College at Cortland

Discussant: George Edwards, Texas A&M University

Panel 5. Links Between the President and the Public

Chair: Doris Graber, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle

Papers: Portraying the President: Images of the President in the Media
Michael B. Grossman and Martha J. Kumar, Towson State University

Public Expectations of the President
Stephen J. Wayne, George Washington University

Minorities and the 1980 Electoral College
Lawrence D. Longley, Lawrence University

Discussant: Professor Morris P. Fiorina, Washington University

PRESIDENCY RESEARCH GROUP PANELS

Roundtable I: Executive Power in an International Comparative Perspective:
Giving Direction to Government

Chair: Hugh Heclo, Harvard University

Participants:

Jerry F. Hough, Duke University
Richard Rose, University of Strathclyde
Ezra N. Suleiman, Princeton University

Roundtable II: Executive Power in an Intra-National Comparative
Perspective: Giving Direction to Government

Chair: Martha Weinberg, M.I.T.

Participants:

Thad L. Beyle, University of North Carolina
Leonard I. Ruchelman, Old Dominion University
Joseph A. Schlesinger, Michigan State University
Douglas Yates, Yale University

Panel I: Recent Quantitative Analysis of the Presidency

Chair: Lester G. Seligman, University of Illinois and A.E.I.

Papers:

"Presidential Uses of Incumbency: Attention-Focusing
Strategies in Reelection Years"
William Lammers, University of Southern Carolina

"Economic Influences on Presidential Popularity
Among Key Political Groups"
Kristen R. Monroe, New York University

"Justices and Presidents: Issue Salience and
Policy Agreement"
Steven A. Shull and Edward V. Heck, University of
New Orleans

Discussant: George Edwards, Texas A&M University

Panel II: The Executive Office of the President: Change and Developments

Chair: A.J. Wann, University of Utah

- Papers:
- "Controlling the Bureaucracy: Will the Senior Executive Service (SES) Make a Difference?"
Carolyn Bann, Edie Goldenberg and Toni Marzotto,
Office of Personnel Management
 - "The President and Telecommunications Policy:
The Failure of an Advisory System"
Francis E. Rourke and Roger Brown, John Hopkins University
 - "Political Socialization of Press Secretaries: A
Case Study of James C. Hagerty"
William C. Spragens, Bowling Green State University

Discussant: Michael K. Brown, VPI & SU

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP: PRESIDENTS, GOVERNORS AND MAYORS

M.W. Weinberg

During the fall semester of 1979 I offered a joint undergraduate/graduate seminar on executive leadership in American government. Since the primary purpose of the course was to develop a set of generalizations and hypotheses about all elected chief executives, we focused not only on presidents, but also on governors and mayors.

The course was designed to be comparative, both among individuals and among jurisdictions. Each student was expected to study and do a substantial research paper on at least one elected chief executive. This research provided us not only with new information on particular executives but also with data against which we could test our generalizations about the executive function in the United States.

In the course there were three recurring themes of discussion that have been especially useful to me in continuing my own work on executives. The first, which surfaced first in our discussion of the executive in American politics, is the abiding ambivalence of followers toward leaders. Tom Cronin has written very perceptively about the paradoxes of the Presidency and about the demands for often-contradictory personal traits that we make on our leaders. We extended this discussion of the paradoxical demands that elected chief executives face and found three to be especially compelling for executives at all levels of government. First, we expect that executives will be strong managers providing stability, worrying about achieving and maintaining organizational equilibrium, while at the same time we want them to take distinctive stands, to be perpetual outsiders and, often, to run against the very government they are supposed to lead. Second, we want them to have a vision (a "basic moral reference point" to use Chester Bowles' phrase) but at the same time to be responsive and representative politicians. Third, we demand that they assemble

