

political book notes

*Public affairs books
to be published in November.*

Advertising and Free Speech. Allen Hyman, M. Bruce Johnson, eds. Lexington, \$12.50.

The Almanac of American Politics 1978. Michael Barone, Grant Ujifusa, Douglas Matthews. Dutton, \$16.95/\$7.95. The latest edition of one of the more valuable reference works for people seriously involved in politics and government.

Assault with A Deadly Weapon: The Autobiography of a Street Criminal. John Allen with Dianne Hall Kelly, Philip Heymann, eds. Pantheon, \$8.95.

Brothers in Blood. Ovid Demaris. Scribner's \$9.95.

Builders of the American Dream. James K. Fitzpatrick. Arlington House, \$9.95.

Can You Trust Your Bank? Robert Heller, Norris Willatt. Scribner's, \$9.95. This is a competent and readable pulling together of the major scandals involving banks around the world over the last few years. It's interesting material, but would have been improved by new thought and fact-getting—it's really not the comprehensive look at banking that its title implies, and that's too bad.

The Cop Who Would Be King: The Honorable Frank Rizzo of Philadelphia. Joseph R. Daughen, Peter Binzen. Little, Brown, \$10. The authors are thorough reporters and engaging writers who know their subject and his city very well. They've produced a thoroughly damning account of Frank Rizzo, who emerges as a hateful, dishonest, egomaniacal, profane despot, a man with no redeeming qualities. All the famous Rizzo scandals are amply covered, but perhaps

more interesting is Daughen and Binzen's description of Rizzo's style and of his entourage, which are not familiar ground for non-Philadelphians.

Democracy for the Few. Michael Parenti. St. Martin's, \$10.

Decision to Prosecute: Organization and Public Policy in the Anti-Trust Division. Suzanne Weaver. MIT, \$14.95.

Deregulating American Industry: Legal and Economic Problems. Donald L. Martin, Warren F. Schwartz, eds. Lexington, \$13.50.

Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison. Michel Foucault. Alan Sheridan, trans. Pantheon, \$10.95.

Dispatches. Michael Herr. Knopf, \$8.95.

Dropshot: The United States Plan for War With The Soviet Union in 1957. Anthony Cave Brown, ed. Dial, \$11.95.

800 Miles to Valdez. James Roscow, Prentice-Hall, \$10.

The Economic Growth Debate: An Assessment. E.J. Mishan. Allen & Unwin, \$16.50/\$7.75.

The End of Prosperity: The American Economy in the 1970s. Harry Magdoff, Paul M. Sweezy. Monthly Review Press, \$7.95.

55 Days: The Fall of South Vietnam. Alan Dawson. Prentice-Hall, \$12.50. A fascinating account of the last battle of the Vietnam war, told by a man who was at that time

UPI's bureau manager in Saigon, who, while his stylistic gifts are limited, is a natural storyteller.

For the Common Defense. Andrew J. Goodpaster. Lexington, \$14.95. Well worth reading for the glimpse it gives into one of our better military minds.

Floating Exchange Rates and National Economic Policy. Stanley W. Black. Yale, \$12.95.

The Future File. Paul Dickson. Rawson, \$9.95.

The Giants: Russia and America. Richard J. Barnet. Simon and Schuster, \$7.95. "In the bizarre world of nuclear strategy," Barnet writes, "satire is impossible. The culmination of *Dr. Strangelove*, a 1964 movie spoofing the nuclear arms race, is a hysterical warning about the 'mine-shaft gap,' which will allow the Soviet Union to save more of its population in a nuclear war than the United States. Eight years later Pentagon officials held a briefing on the mine-shaft gap for congressional committees."

At the beginning of 1977, the United States had about 9,000 nuclear warheads aimed at the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union had about 3,500 aimed at the United States. That the vast majority of the weapons are superfluous in no way inhibits the continued build-up.

Nor do the arms control agreements. As against disarmament, where each side agrees to reduce its capability to conduct war against the other, "arms control" purports to remove the advantage either side would gain by starting a nuclear war. Arms control is a concept more acceptable to the military bureaucracies in each country, and both superpowers have used the SALT negotiations to improve their military capabilities; five years after the SALT I agreement was signed the stockpile of nuclear weapons had doubled. "Arms control negotiations," a former deputy director of the CIA noted, "are rapidly becoming the best excuse for escalating . . . the arms race."

The arms escalation upon which the prosperity of the military bureaucracies of both countries depends can be rationalized only by pointing to an "enemy"—and, in describing threats that justify bigger budgets. The Soviet and American military are not only "enemies" but also each other's strongest allies: "the madness of one bureaucracy," Barnet observes, "sustains the

other." In neither country, to be sure, have the political leaders effectively challenged the thinking of their military bureaucracies.

But, concurrently with the arms race has emerged another aspect of the Soviet-American relationship, those instincts for survival that peer out from under the mushroom cloud and find expression in the term "detente." Soviet leaders understand that their real problems—China, dissidents, the restless nations under their hegemony, the diverse national entities within the Soviet Union itself, low productivity—have little to do with the United States. Similarly, the American problems—the tenuousness of our access to raw materials, our diminishing control of the world economy, the runaway costs of managing our government—don't have much to do with the Soviet Union.

Positive realities impel the two giants toward closer ties. The Soviet need for Western technology has resulted in a growing web of economic arrangements, each new economic tie making inevitable the next.

Detente has, in fact, proceeded further than most Americans realize. The United States, says Barnet, has come to view the Soviet troops in Eastern Europe as a guarantor of the stability of the area. "No one in the upper reaches of the State Department," he writes, "likes to imagine what would happen if the troops pulled out." (It's one of the ironies of contemporary American democracy that we learn what our government *really* thinks only from non-governmental sources: if pressed, the State Department, which knows a political hot potato when it sees one, would have to declare its blue-eyed innocence of any such thoughts.)

Meanwhile, the time bomb—the increasingly volatile arms race—ticks on. In Barnet's view, unless the giants make a fundamental change in their military relationship and move from "arms control" toward comprehensive disarmament, it will explode.

—Leonard Reed

Haven in a Heartless World: The Family Besieged. Christopher Lasch. Basic Books, \$15.

The Jews. Chaim Bermant. Times Books, \$12.50.

Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations. Michael Walzer. Basic Books, \$15. An eloquent and convincing statement of the case against war.

Justice and Older Americans. Marlene A. Young Rifai. Lexington, \$17.