

POLITICAL BOOKNOTES

Entrepreneurship, Productivity and the Freedom of Information Act. William L. Casey Jr., John E. Martinsen, Laurence S. Moss. *Lexington*, \$14.95.

The Hearts of Men: American Dreams and the Flight from Commitment. Barbara Ehrenreich. *Anchor Press*, \$13.95. For years, anti-feminists have been pointing to the growing incidence of male desertion and female poverty as the inevitable price women pay for rewriting the social contract between the sexes.

Ehrenreich turns this notion on its head, arguing convincingly that the male revolt against responsibility began years before *The Feminine Mystique*. The cause was a gradual change in the way society saw not women, but men. The "masculine" man, until the fifties, was the stalwart breadwinner. Today, masculinity is frequently associated with the independent-minded runaway who rebels against responsibility—and often ducks paying child support.

Instead of causing the problem, Ehrenreich says, feminism can help solve it, by offering suddenly single women better pay and more confidence, and by relaxing the rigid expectations for male behavior that caused the rebellion in the first place.

She writes calmly, with empathy and with the understanding that women are not the only victims of men's flight from commitment.

—Tina Rosenberg

The Price of Power: Kissinger in the Nixon White House. Seymour Hersh. *Summit Books*, \$19.95. This widely heralded book is both welcome and disappointing. It's welcome because most of the public still believe Henry Kissinger was a great statesman, and there is evidence on practically every page to show that he wasn't. For those who have paid closer attention to his

career, it is a useful compendium of dirt to place on the bookshelf next to his memoirs. If the book has a certain dog-bites-man quality (he played both sides in the 1968 campaign and lied incessantly—so what else is new?), Hersh's painstaking—and as far as I can tell—accurate reporting still provokes the intended revulsion.

But the author's blow-by-blow style is also his biggest weakness. The book most desperately needed on Kissinger would be one that subtly explains what makes him tick. This isn't that book: it takes you inside the White House, but not inside Kissinger's mind. The book's texture is that of a careful, unhysterical legal brief, not an insightful biography. Instead of explaining how the same man could both brilliantly open relations with China and wiretap his closest friends, he belittles the China opening and treats the wiretaps as if they were part of a police blotter instead of exploring what insight they offer into Kissinger's character. Perhaps it's too much to ask an investigative reporter like Hersh to turn into a thoughtful student of character and motivation. But he might have avoided Nixon's and Kissinger's common flaw—a premium on toughness above all else.

The best parts of the book are on lesser-known episodes like the "tilt" toward Pakistan and the painfully inadequate response to Biafra. Unfortunately, Hersh stops at 1973 and plans no second volume, which means other, underexamined parts of Kissinger's career are missing altogether. The word OPEC, for instance, does not appear even once in the book, although many former government officials now suggest that a Kissinger deal with the Shah of Iran helped drive up oil prices. That may not be as close to Sy Hersh's heart as beating the old drum on Vietnam, but it's a story more in need of his talents.

—Jonathan Alter

Red Carpet. Joseph Finder. *Holt, Rinehart & Winston*, \$16.95. This is the story of how a handful of American businessmen, such as Armand Hammer, Cyrus Eaton, David Rockefeller, and Donald Kendall of Pepsi, have moved heaven and earth to peddle their wares in the Soviet Union.

The irony is lush—these respectable Americans so eager to fulfill Lenin's well-known prophecy that the capitalists would sell Russia the rope by which they would be hanged. Finder tells his story with admirable restraint, letting the personages, well, hang themselves (when they do).

What comes through, above all, is how much some of these supposed antagonists—the industrial magnates and their Soviet counterparts—have in common. Survivors of bureaucratic wars, connived

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upon and conniving, moral compasses stuck at self-advantage, hungry for adulation and—above all—respect. It's no wonder that men like Leonid Brezhnev and Donald Kendall of Pepsi get along.

But what does it say about the standard world view, when the top capitalists and top communists can be so much alike? That companies like Ford and Bechtel can help to build the Soviet economy, and then get lucrative Pentagon contracts to "defend" us against a Soviet juggernaut they helped create? Finder doesn't say. His eye is so glued to the microscope, he hardly steps back to ask. But while his story sometimes falters in the dense-pack anecdotal detail, the facts are here. It's an admirable research job and will provide much fodder for those who undertake to fathom what it all means.

—Jonathan Rowe

Statecraft as Soulcraft: What Government Does. George F. Will. *Simon & Schuster, \$13.95.* Will seems to have written this book to establish once and for all that his conservatism is not the prevailing kind—the free-market vision of that 18th-century liberal Adam Smith—but rather the Burkean kind, which values government as an institution that carries forth traditions. Much of what Will writes about the importance of civic virtue echoes what has been written in this magazine about the need for our government not simply to broker between special interests, as the liberals routinely propose, or to allow the sterility of the free market to prevail, as conservatives propose, but to promote shared values. Unfortunately, when it comes to putting his political philosophy in practice, Will is less successful: for example, after discussing the importance of education in our society, he endorses tuition tax credits—a classic free-market solution that shrugs off the possibility of government ever doing a better job with public education. No wonder people still confuse him with Milton Friedman.

—Timothy Noah

The World's Money. Michael Moffitt. *Simon & Schuster, \$15.95.* This timely and disturbing book details how the world's bankers have pushed us to the brink of global disaster through a combination of imprudent Third-World loans, massive currency speculation, and high interest rates. Particularly revealing are the glimpses of a part of the banking world that is largely immune from government regulation and rife with deceptions used to justify reckless behavior. As one

banker is quoted, "You've got to be cynical. Everyone knows Poland is in default, but if we say so, we admit we're bad bankers who made loans we never should have made."

Moffitt's antipathy toward Walter Wriston, et al., occasionally slants his judgment; for example, he relegates OPEC's complicity to a few passing references. But overall, this is a valuable book, whose warning may, unfortunately, prove all too prophetic.

—Phil Keisling

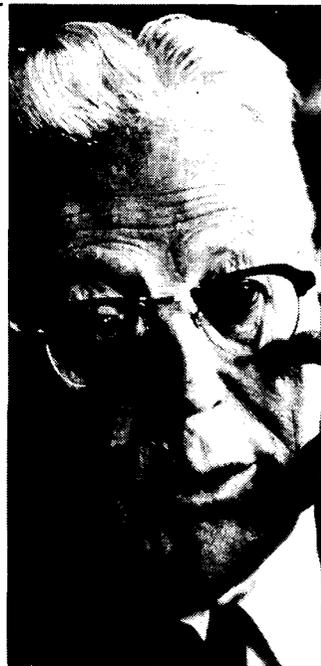
Inside the Warren Court.

Earl Warren led a philosophically divided Supreme Court to some of the boldest and most far-reaching decisions in judicial history. Drawing on scores of interviews and thousands of documents, both public and private, "this superb biography...supplies important new information about a judicial period researchers have only begun to tap."—*Library Journal*

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