

big-spending lobbies over their disastrous performance in the 97th Congress. Despite expensive, well-coordinated campaigns, they lost efforts to water down federal insecticide regulations, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act. They also lost fights for regulatory reform legislation and a bill to exempt professional associations from FTC jurisdiction.

Drew's final chapter briefly sketches possible solutions to the vicious campaign spending spiral: federal financing, further limitations on PAC contributions and spending, and prohibition of paid political advertising on television combined with providing free air time to all candidates. Though they may have some value, these proposals, gleaned from interviews with Archibald Cox and Fred Wertheimer of Common Cause, are subjected to little scrutiny. One wishes Drew relied less on her tape recorder and applied more of her own analytical skills in exploring their complexities.

—Tom Hamburger

Short Circuit. Michael Mewshaw. *Atheneum*, \$13.95. "Although I had no desire to retreat to the childish myths that dominate most writing about sports," writes Michael Mewshaw early on in *Short Circuit*, "I expected to discover a less complex world than the one I inhabited. I imagined a career in tennis. . . involved little compromise, no ambiguity, no troubling shades of gray, just stark yet reassuring black and white. The ball was in or out. . . . You won or you lost. If you were better than somebody you could

prove it. . . . Reputations weren't bestowed by friends, connections, and tax-free endowments. . . . What purer, more straightforward meritocracy could be imagined?"

Well, that's not quite the way it is, as Mewshaw discovers to his (allegedly) growing shock and disillusionment. *Short Circuit* is, more or less, a diary of six months spent on the men's professional tennis circuit, but there is surprisingly little in it about the actual matches Mewshaw saw during those six months. Instead it is full of revelations of players' "tanking" (i.e., throwing) matches; of under-the-table appearance money for the top stars; of purse-splitting; and, most shameful of all, of preferential treatment—both on and off the court—given to the handful of players who can draw crowds. This treatment includes the decidedly unmeritocratic practice of making sure that the stars get the benefit of any close calls (and some that aren't so close) so that they'll be back to play another day (and tournament officials will be assured that the stands will be full). Tennis, it turns out, is a pretty seamy sport.

This is not Watergate, to be sure, and Mewshaw does not attempt to portray it as such. For one thing, his portrait of himself is not as a relentless muckraker, in the Woodstein mold, but rather as a wandering naif, who just happens to stumble into corruption when all he wants to do is watch some good tennis. He has written this book in such an engaging manner that it becomes fun to watch the scales slowly fall from his eyes. I don't know how much of this persona is

for real and how much is literary device, but the result is that Mewshaw has given us a first: the charming expose.

On the other hand, even if it isn't Watergate, if you care at all about sports, you can't help being offended by what Mewshaw has stumbled into. (You also can't help wondering why it took a non-tennis writer to tell us about it.)

—Joseph Nocera

Three Plus One Equals Billions: The Bendix-Martin Marietta War. Allan Sloan. Arbor House, \$15.95. This book goes beyond the usual criticism of "tiers-of-tender" offers and "scorched-earth" strategies to scrutinize the corporate culture that lay behind last fall's Bendix-Marietta-Allied merger war. The villains here are William Agee, the former Bendix chairman, and his wife, Mary Cunningham—two people who seemed determined to embody corporate America's worst aspects. Agee once actually ordered the Bendix financial staff to prove through a cost-benefit analysis that it was cheaper to take a helicopter to the airport than to drive. Another telling anecdote: When Agee's sister was out of work and ill and had fallen behind on her mortgage payments, she made the mistake of asking her millionaire brother for a loan. Agee put Cunningham on the phone, and she advised her, "Go to the local press and plant a story about how the bank is taking advantage of a young woman with an illness." Cute couple.

—Timothy Noah

There's a New State in Washington

Our neighbors are the State Department, the Kennedy Center, most Government Agencies and many tourist attractions. We accommodate our guests in

spacious suites, complete with kitchens, for less than the price of most hotel rooms in Washington. It's a wonderful new state that you should visit soon.

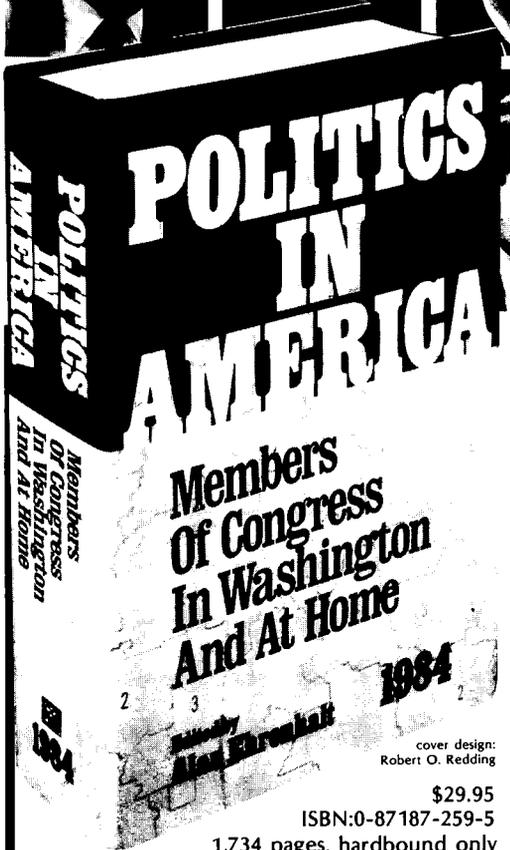


FORMERLY SHERRY TOWERS HOTEL
2117 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20037

(202) 861-8200 Call us now for reservations. (800) 424-2859

JUST PUBLISHED

Now Available!



Congressional Quarterly announces
the new 1984 edition!

POLITICS IN AMERICA

Members Of Congress In Washington And At Home

New 1984 edition includes • Detailed descriptions and maps of all newly drawn congressional districts • Candid profiles evaluating the performance, influence, style and priorities of each member of Congress, reassessed to reflect the changed political climate in Washington under President Reagan . . . plus new statistical data on elections and votes. All new from the nation's leading Congress-watcher: Congressional Quarterly Inc.



Order your copy today by sending a check for \$29.95 to:

Congressional Quarterly Inc.

1414 22nd Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037 • (202) 887-8620

For Washington, D.C. addressees add 6% sales tax.