

State's Government Problems Typical

# Vital Reforms Long Overdue in Pennsylvania Legislature

By PAUL LEVINE

Special to The Daily Collegian

When cocktail-party conversations turn to state legislatures, the many voices usually form a distinct pattern—much criticism but little consensus.

There are, however, some general comments about state legislatures which apply quite well to Pennsylvania government. While not forming a unanimity of opinion, these observations are often agreed upon by many from seemingly different political persuasions.

Few observers, if any, would argue that the Pennsylvania Legislature is flawless. In fact, most assert that the foibles of the General Assembly are those found in all legislatures.

Many feel that time has long since passed the Legislature by, that the legislators are living and governing in the 19th century. In his final State of the Commonwealth Message in January, 1966, Gov. William W. Scranton called for new efforts to meet new problems.

**Public Demanding Service**

"Members of the Legislature must discipline themselves and their party caucuses to provide the kind of service that the public increasingly demands," Scranton said.

Observers of the national scene think that such problems are widespread. In "Storm Over the States," former North Carolina Gov. Terry Sanford calls state legislatures "lacking in fresh, confident leadership." State leaders must establish new character to get a new reputation, Sanford wrote.

There are others who are likewise disturbed about the condition of the nation's legislatures. In his book, "The States—United They Fell," Frank Trippett charged that public interests are not being met in state government. The legislatures, he claimed, are run by a coalition of industrial, commercial and business groups. The true con-

stituency of the legislature is the commercial community," Trippett said.

Thomas R. Dye, in his article, "State Legislative Politics," accuses legislatures of functioning to serve locally organized interests.

And, Gov. Scranton took the Pennsylvania Legislature to task for not keeping the welfare of the people foremost in mind.

**Lobby Spending Reports**

"Special interests still wield too much power, too," Scranton said. "Lobbyists perform the worthwhile and legitimate function of bringing the problems of economic groups to the attention of the legislators. But when the interests of these groups gain supremacy over the general public interest, legislators are not giving fair service to either their constituents or the Commonwealth. We need rigorous laws for the reporting of expenditures by lobbyists, the financial holdings of legislators, and executive personnel — and political campaign financing, too."

Although expressed over a year ago, Scranton's concern with legislators' ethics remains a timely subject. An ethics bill became bogged down in the last session of the Legislature and is expected to see more problems when the Legislature reconvenes. Much attention focused on the bill after last month's Susie Monroe affair.

Rep. Monroe (D-Philadelphia) has not been seen in Harrisburg since the Legislature convened in January, 1967. Yet, in the last year, she collected about \$800 in travel expenses, presumably for the twice-weekly Philadelphia to Harrisburg trip. The incident hardly raised an eyebrow on Capitol Hill where such practice is the rule rather than the exception; but the state's citizenry did awaken to the fact that there is room for moral improvement in Harrisburg.

The structure of the Legislature has also come under fire recently. The Committee for Economic Development

(CED), a national group of businessmen and educators, recommends that legislators be limited to 100 members in total. Pennsylvania has 203 members in its House and 50 in the Senate. While not as cumbersome as New Hampshire's 424-member Legislature, the General Assembly could be effectively reduced in size, according to many observers.

However, the Constitutional Convention in Harrisburg has already rejected two proposals which would have trimmed the size of the House. One amendment, which would have lowered the number of Representatives to 101, was defeated on the Convention floor by a vote of 135-14. The other amendment, calling for a House with a maximum of 151 members, fared only slightly better, losing 103-40.

The Convention's Legislative Apportionment Committee recommended maintaining House membership at 203. After the Committee's proposal is formally presented one more time—a mere formality—the Convention will go on record as reaffirming the status quo.

**Too Many Committees**

CED also criticizes the committee system of most states. Committees, the group says, should be few in number and organized along broad functional lines. Thirty-five states presently have more standing committees than the U. S. Congress. With 56 committees, Pennsylvania ranks about midway, along the scale which ranges from Nebraska's mere 14 to Mississippi's 101 standing committees.

Some critics of the state scene feel that there is more wrong with the committee system than just the numbers. Rep. Gerald Kaufman (D-Allegheny) recently charged that the checks and balance system of the Legislature is ineffective because Republicans in control of committees are serving as extensions of Gov. Shafer's executive branch of the government.

Before stepping down last year, Gov. Scranton had additional criticism for the Legislature. He advocated a

change in "the traditional mode of operation" of the Legislature.

"The practice of coming to Harrisburg for a day or two at the beginning of the week, calling frequent recesses, stretching out the session, and finally, acting on most important matters in a frantic rush in the last few days before adjournment simply does not make for orderly and responsible government today," Scranton said. "The best practice would be to buckle down at the beginning of the session, meet regularly, conduct business and then adjourn. The legislator's work, however, should not be finished with the end of the session."

**No Time Limit**

The Pennsylvania Legislature holds annual sessions (budget sessions are held every other year) with no time limits. Because most of the legislators hold other jobs as well, the Legislature usually meets only two or three days a week.

CED favors full-time legislators working in annual sessions with no time limits except for revenue and appropriations measures.

Another concern of the CED is the salary level of state legislators. The committee wants the minimum salary to be \$15,000 in the smaller states and \$25,000 in states of Pennsylvania's size. Pennsylvania legislators currently receive \$12,000 annually — \$7,200 basic salary and \$4,800 for expenses.

One supporter of the pay-raise is Rep. Ronald G. Lench (D-Beaver) who also advocates reducing the size of the legislature.

Legislators' pay should be raised, Lench said. "If this were done, you wouldn't have people trying to run the state government and practicing law or selling insurance at the same time. But it is difficult for a man to take this work seriously when he has a family to support back home."

## Professors Named to Posts In Several Organizations

Frances M. Andrews, professor and head of the Department of Music Education, has been named president-elect of the Music Educators National Conference, an organization of approximately 55,000 members with national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

She will serve as president-elect and as a member of the Executive Board for two years, then automatically take office as president for two years, following which she will serve two years as vice president.

The Music Educators National Conference is active in all aspects of music and music education on the local, state, national, and international levels. It has an active publication program of professional brochures, monographs, and periodicals, and has an extensive program in musical creativity funded by the Ford Foundation.

Merrill R. Fenske, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering and director of the Petroleum Refining Laboratory, has been elected 1968 chairman of the American Chemical Society's Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.

"Beardsley" Up for Award  
"Beardsley," the biography written by Stanley Weintraub, professor of English, is among the 31 books chosen by judges for the National Book Awards as "leading nominees" for the \$1,000 prizes.

The winners will be named March 6 at a gathering of the literary community in Lincoln Center's Philharmonic Hall in New York.

The National Book Committee, a non-profit group, administers the awards, which are made in the fields of Fiction, Poetry, Translation, Arts and Letters, History and Biography, and Science, Philosophy, and Religion.

Peter R. Gould, associate professor of geography, has been appointed a member of the Behavioral and Social Science Survey Committee, National Academy of Sciences, dealing with review questions and recommendations to Congress.

A. T. Phillips, associate professor of biochemistry, has been elected to membership in the Biochemical Society of England.

M. L. Keith, professor of geochimistry, is serving on a panel of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., concerned with evaluating applications submitted to the Postdoctoral Research Associates Program of the National Research Council.

William F. Fuller, manager of the Hetzel Union Building, has been named to the 1968 Resolutions Committee of the Association of College Unions—International.  
The Association, founded in 1914, is a professional organi-

zation of nearly 800 member college unions.

**Communication Theory**

Four members of the Department of Speech faculty are authors of a book dealing with the communication theory in the elementary and secondary classrooms.

The book, to be published Sept. 1, is entitled, "Oral Communication and the Classroom Teacher" and the authors are Gerald M. Phillips and Robert E. Dunham, both associate professors of speech; Robert S. Brubaker, professor of speech, and David E. Butt, instructor in speech.

Robert F. Jolly, assistant professor of mathematics, has been granted a leave of absence to serve the Mathematical Association of America as staff mathematician and consultant to the Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM).

Margaret B. Matson, professor of sociology and director of the Social Welfare major in the College of the Liberal Arts, has been appointed to membership on an Advisory Committee of the Social and Rehabilitation Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Richard L. McCarl, assistant professor of biochemistry, has been named chairman of the Central Pennsylvania section of the American Chemical Society.



THE BLAIR HOUSE team from North Halls defeated East Halls' Potter-Scranton House 175-65 last night in USG College Bowl competition. The team and last night's three other winners now advance to the semi-final rounds. Team members, left to right, are Dan Serman, Steve Locke, Conrad Schmidt and Robert Whalen.

## USG College Bowl Continues

"What president of the United States followed Warren G. Harding?" This and many similar questions were asked last night, in the second round of the Undergraduate Student Government's College Bowl held in the Hetzel Union Building Assembly Room.

Four contests were conducted last night in the College Bowl's most successful competition in its history. According to Diane Clymer, contest chairman, this year's bowl "has been a great success. As a matter of fact, several other

teams have called me wanting to enter after the competition had already begun."

The USG part of the College Bowl pits teams from residence halls and University organizations against each other. The school fraternities and sororities are conducting their own contest with the grand champion tentatively scheduled to engage in a playoff with the USG winner.

In the first match Blair House defeated Potter-Scranton House by a score of 175-65. Next

Erie House conquered Blair House II 110-85. In the third meet Center House was the victor over Allegheny House 140-45. The final bout matched Sullivan-Wyoming House against the first girls' residence hall to compete, Shulze Hall. The final score was Sullivan-Wyoming 195 and Shulze Hall 115.

In an effort to end the night matches earlier, the Monday night contests will begin 15 minutes earlier than previously announced.

## HUB Bloodmobile To Seek Donors

A Bloodmobile, co-sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, men's national service fraternity, and Gamma Sigma Sigma, women's national service sorority, will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 20th and 21st in the Hetzel Union Building card room.

This service-sponsored Bloodmobile is held every Fall and Winter Term in conjunction

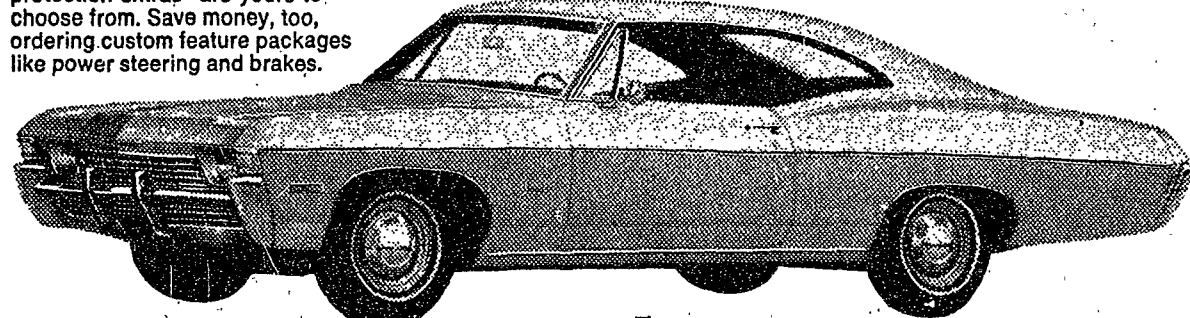
with the Centre County Chapter of the American Red Cross. All donations will be given to the chapter. A "walk-in" procedure will be used and it will not be necessary to have registered with the Bloodmobile prior to the time of donation.

Any one over the age of 18 who is neither pregnant nor in poor health is eligible to give

blood. A rotating plaque will be awarded to the fraternity with the largest donation.

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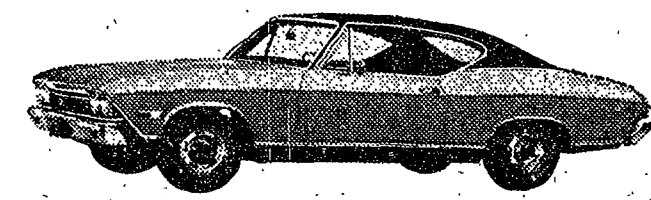


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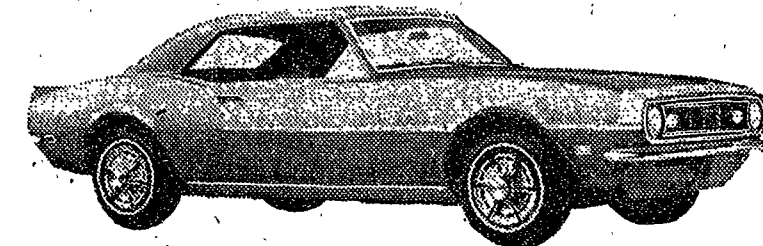


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PAPERBACKS IN REVIEW  
A publisher's survey of what's new in the way of unrequired reading

"Movies are better than ever."  
When Hollywood coined that promotional phrase some years ago, television was just coming into its own, movie audiences had dwindled, and films themselves seemed sillier than ever. The slogan, regarded in some quarters as wishful thinking, occasioned no little merriment. But nowadays, nobody's laughing.  
For while the theatre is declared moribund (again), and television is not regarded as worthy of consideration, movies are better than ever. At least, more people than ever before go to them, talk about them and take them seriously. Public interest extends to all kinds of movies—underground, overground, homemade, foreign, new wave, old ripple, *The Sound of Music*, and *Blow-Up*. It has been said of everyone, from Shakespeare to Brecht: "If he were working today, he'd be working in movies."

On the theory that, Marshall McLuhan notwithstanding, people who enjoy seeing and talking about movies would also enjoy reading and knowing more about them, an international publishing venture called *Cinema World* has been launched. The plan is for a series of definitive, lively, copiously-illustrated, jargon-free critical studies of individual directors and actors, discussions of national cinemas and kinds of movies, and explanations of the movie-making process. The first three volumes in the series, published in paperback at \$2.95 each (and in hard covers at \$4.95) are:

*Jean-Luc Godard*, by Richard Roud. A study of the connecting themes and ideas in the work of the controversial French director whose *Breathless* led the "new wave."

*Loosey on Loosey*, edited and introduced by Tom Milne. The American director's comments on his own work, from *The Boy with Green Hair* to *The Servant* and *Accident*.

*Luchino Visconti*, by Geoffrey Nowell-Smith. An analysis of the director whose products extend from the neo-realism of *Rocco and His Brothers* to the rococo of *The Leopard*.

Other books to be published in the series this year include Robin Wood on *Howard Hawks*, John Ward on *Alain Resnais*, and *The New Wave*, edited by Peter Graham. Always, we hope *Cinema World* will fill the gap between the heavy technical tomes and the fantasy of movie fan magazines. The latter, incidentally, are responsible for a satire called *Mmmm . . . It's Juicy* which appears, along with hundreds of other pieces, in Max Shulman's *Guided Tour of Campus Humor* (\$4.95, hardbound). This is a king-size collection of the best stories, articles, jokes, poems, and nonsense compiled from 65 college humor magazines over half a century. If this hilarious book proves anything, it's that college humor is as funny as ever.

The books reviewed above are published by the sponsors of this column, Doubleday Anchor Books, 277 Park Avenue, New York City, and Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York. You'll find them at one of the best equipped bookstores in the country—your own college store.

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