

Schatz's book brings new light and coherence to a largely forgotten group of policymakers who shaped the second half of the twentieth century. Likewise, it is a welcome reminder of the benefits of postwar collective bargaining. At the same time, however, Schatz could have done more to engage with the growing body of literature on the role of economists in the rise of neoliberalism. Although Schatz acknowledges the crews' failure to predict or effectively respond to stagflation and its consequences, he does not go far enough in exploring their culpability for the rise of inequality and the New Right. In so doing, he might have helped us better understand how a revived labor movement might move beyond corporatism and neoliberalism to confront the insurgent right-wing authoritarianisms of our own time.

In His Own Words: The Harold Hughes Story, by Russell Wilson and William Hedlund. Bloomington, IN: LifeRich Publishing, 2020. ix, 212 pp. Photographs, notes, appendix. \$16.99 paperback.

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Any list covering the most successful politicians to come out of Iowa in the modern era surely would include Harold E. Hughes. From humble roots as a truck driver, Hughes went on to serve three terms as the Governor of Iowa (1962–68), one as a United States Senator (1969–75), and even become a presidential hopeful in the early 1970s. Though his official stint in political office was not as long as some of his colleagues' tenures, Hughes was able to achieve a number of policy successes that had major impacts on the lives of Iowans and others across the country. *In His Own Words: The Harold Hughes Story* seeks to pay homage to Hughes' life and these political accomplishments.

The authors, Russell Wilson and William Hedlund, were close friends and colleagues of Hughes. Their book is not meant to be a biography of Hughes, nor should it be read as a scholarly piece. Instead, the authors aimed to "reveal the many facets" of Hughes' life from those "who knew him best" (xi). Through sources like newspaper articles, personal recollections of the authors, and interviews of family members, the book offers personal and intimate insight into this prominent Iowan. The biggest share of source material comes from recordings that Hughes himself made in preparation for a book that was never published. Hence, the book is aptly titled *In His Own Words*. The book consists of short chap-

ters that provide brief snapshots of Hughes' political, religious, and familial life. This structure does not allow for comprehensive analysis of individual legislative undertakings or much time for attention to the broader social, political, or economic context in which Hughes was operating. Instead, this book is a collection of interesting stories and memories with each chapter made up primarily of block quotations with Hughes and others close to him describing different occurrences.

Wilson and Hedlund tellingly begin with a first chapter consisting of Hughes' recollections of his darkest days in his struggle with alcoholism. Throughout his life, Hughes often told the story of deciding to get sober after almost committing suicide. It was this experience, his "Hour of Despair" as the authors call it, that shaped his time in politics and influenced his deep personal commitment to using political resources to aid alcoholics like himself (1). The authors then turn to briefly discussing Hughes' childhood being raised in poverty during a time without a significant social safety net. Like his alcoholism, this experience strengthened his identification with "the poor, disenfranchised, and marginalized" throughout his career (20). Hughes' empathy and his Christian faith were what the authors consider to be the defining factors of Hughes' politics. From his first political position as Chairman of the Iowa State Commerce Commission and his fight to protect small trucking firms, Hughes always sought to help the underdog. As Governor of Iowa, he brought about reforms in state prisons and mental institutions, abolished the death penalty, and funded community colleges that still exist today. During his tenure as Senator, he was staunchly anti-war and helped to expose unauthorized bombings in Vietnam.

As the authors illustrate, Hughes' most significant accomplishment was the changes he brought about for individuals struggling with alcoholism. While Governor, Hughes started the Iowa Comprehensive Alcoholism Project, which was one of the first state-wide rehabilitative programs for alcoholics. Wilson was one of the authors of this project, and he provides interesting, personal knowledge of the ideas behind the program. This commitment to alcoholics carried over into Hughes' time in the Senate. With the help of Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy, Hughes won approval to chair a Special Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Narcotics. This subcommittee was the first to approach alcoholism and drug addiction as a health rather than a law enforcement problem. The subcommittee's work resulted in the passing of federal legislation that tackled alcoholism on a national scale. The "Hughes Act" as it became known authorized \$300 million for prevention and rehabilitation programs. It also created the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, a federal agency that continues to study and disseminate

information on alcoholism treatment. Wilson and Hedlund note that this was a “major accomplishment for a first term senator;” one that completely transformed the treatment landscape for alcoholics across the United States (157).

In His Own Words does not provide a complete take on Hughes’ political career or the turbulent decades in which he served. But this was never the authors’ intention. Anyone interested in the history of Iowa politicians, the political history of alcoholism, or the politics of an earlier and perhaps more optimistic era will find this to be an interesting read.