

ferences, which became fissures after the war. But sometimes readers may want more circumstantial information—the presence of a number of women in the intellectual circle seems an innovation worth comment. In addition, more connections between liberal intellectuals and labor could have been drawn out; the larger question of the links between intellectuals and grass-roots activists is largely unexplored. The notes are extensive and helpful, but the failure to include a bibliography is compounded by the fact that the otherwise excellent index does not include the secondary sources found in the notes: readers interested in whether Warren takes into account the viewpoint of a particular historian will be hampered by that absence.

Warren is forthright in declaring his own political attraction to the Socialist Party's "critical support" of the war—a position that allowed for more defense of civil liberties and less support of imperialist war aims than the liberals' position, given their illusions about Roosevelt and about the nature of the war. Warren's critique of World War II liberalism can help explain the subsequent weakness and malleability of that political tendency.

*Paul Powell of Illinois: A Lifelong Democrat*, by Robert E. Hartley. Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois University Press, 1999. xviii, 229 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth, \$17.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY HOWARD W. ALLEN, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT CARBONDALE

Robert Hartley's biography of Paul Powell is a fascinating study of one of the most powerful leaders who ever served in the Illinois state legislature. Powell grew up in Vienna, Illinois, a very small town in southern Illinois. He was elected as a Democrat to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1934 and from 1949 until he was elected Illinois secretary of state in 1964 he served as minority leader or Speaker of the Illinois House. Powell worked well with Republicans as well as other Democrats, and he frequently exploited the differences between Chicago Democrats and downstate Republicans to the advantage of his southern Illinois constituents and himself. Twice, reporters in Springfield voted him the most effective legislator in Illinois.

Hartley makes clear that Powell's reputation as a self-serving downstate politician with "flexible ethical standards" (39) is well deserved. No major policy or cause can be identified with him, although he served during the tumultuous years of the Great Depression, World

War II, and after. Although he did a great deal to promote the growth of Southern Illinois University, he had, according to Hartley, little interest in higher education.

The greater part of this biography concentrates on Powell's personal financial activities. According to Hartley, Powell was "a virtual moneymaking machine" (143). He made money in very small amounts; he made money in very large amounts. Most of his income came from racetrack investments and related activities. He was a major figure in securing passage of two laws passed in 1945 and 1949 that eliminated restrictions against pari-mutuel betting for harness racing. Shortly afterwards Powell purchased, in his wife's name, nearly 17,000 shares of Chicago Downs for ten cents a share. In four years it paid him a return of approximately 4,000 percent! Similar investments and consultant arrangements followed, and when he died he owned stock in seven horse-racing enterprises. He defended his stock holdings, claiming, apparently with a straight face, that income from them freed him "from bribes or acting in any way in conflict of office" (41).

Powell is best known for the \$800,000 in cash that was discovered at his death in his suite in a hotel in Springfield. It was widely believed that the money was in shoeboxes, although in fact most of it was in suitcases, envelopes, and strong boxes. No one has ever explained satisfactorily where the money came from or how it came to be in Powell's suite. Hartley registers his suspicions about the questionable behavior of a small group of Powell's associates and friends immediately upon his death and speculates about what actually happened. The Internal Revenue Service launched an investigation, charging tax fraud, and ultimately settled for nearly half of the \$3.3 million in Powell's estate.

Hartley's treatment of Paul Powell reads almost like a mystery novel as he tracks the money. However, he pays little attention to Powell's role in dealing with the impact of New Deal legislation on the state legislature during the 1930s or to the problems facing Illinois during World War II and after. The result is a delightful book that probably will not completely satisfy serious students of state government and Illinois history.

*In Search of Donna Reed*, by Jay Fultz. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1998. xi, 236 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$25.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY M. ALISON KIBLER, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

This entertaining biography shatters the stereotype of Donna Reed as a sweetly submissive wife and mother. Her famous television show,

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