

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Report of Nominating Committee, 1952

At the coming meeting of the American Political Science Association to be held in Buffalo, the Committee on Nominations (James L. McCamy, Chairman, University of Wisconsin) will propose the following officers for 1952-1953: President-Elect, Ralph J. Bunche (United Nations); Vice-Presidents, Charles Aikin (University of California, Berkeley), Charles McKinley (Reed College), and E. E. Schattschneider (Wesleyan University); members of the Executive Council for two years, Walter H. Bennett (University of Alabama), Hugh A. Bone (University of Washington), Robert A. Dahl (Yale University), David Fellman (University of Wisconsin), Victor Jones (Wesleyan University), Jack W. Peltason (University of Illinois), Emmette S. Redford (University of Texas), and Clinton L. Rossiter (Cornell University).

Notice Concerning Resolutions

The attention of all members of the Association is called to the provision of Article 9 of the Constitution which reads as follows: "All resolutions shall be referred to the Council for its recommendation before submission to the vote of the Association at its Annual Business Meeting. Notice of this provision shall be given to the members of the Association in advance of the annual meeting." The meeting of the Executive Council of the Association will be held on Monday, August 25. Resolutions for consideration at that time should be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer, Edward H. Litchfield, before the day of the meeting. They may be addressed to him at the Executive Office of the Association, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Program for the Annual Meeting, 1952

Probably no phase of our associational behavior as political scientists receives more continued criticism than the program arranged each year for the annual meeting. The complaints are numerous; the dissatisfaction is apparently widespread; and yet no two persons are ever in agreement about what should be done.

As Program Chairman, I have ventured this year to try a new approach to the task of constructing an annual program. Whether the plan can be made to work, and whether the program will be greeted with any greater degree of favor than past ones, remains to be seen.

The objectives in this year's program are these: (1) to provide some degree of unity and comprehensive coverage in the range of subjects considered; (2) to secure a larger number of participants; and (3) to focus attention upon the general intellectual content of our subject matter specialization. Within limits, too, it has seemed desirable to build the program around the work of the committees which function under the aegis of the Association.

In order to realize these objectives, a plan has been worked out which has these principal features. First, the subject matter interests of political scientists have been divided into a sevenfold classification: (1) political theory, (2) political parties and processes, (3) national government (including constitutional law), (4) state and local government, (5) public administration, (6) comparative government, and (7) international law and relations. Second, one person has been asked to organize the appropriate parts of the program in each of these fields. These seven persons, who collectively make up the Program Committee, are as follows: (1) Walter H. Bennett, University of Alabama, (2) Paul T. David, Brookings Institution, (3) Charles McKinley, Reed College, (4) Charles M. Kneier, University of Illinois, (5) Wallace Sayre, College of the City of New York, (6) Harold Zink, Ohio State University, and (7) John Gange, University of Virginia.

Third, each person organizing a broad segment of the program has been asked to proceed along a common pattern. As a general arrangement, there are expected to be four program sections for each of the seven major fields. In some instances there will be one or two more and in other instances one or two fewer sections. Each section will have a chairman and consider at least one paper. It is hoped that sections will have as many as twenty participants to carry on discussion. Moreover, each section will meet twice in

order that every participant will have an opportunity during the two periods to comment on the paper presented or to express his own point of view.

Fourth, the Program Committee is encouraging each chairman to plan his particular section around one topic selected from a suggested list: a recent noteworthy contribution to the literature of the field; some recent trends in events which call for scholarly investigation and analysis; some present research activities of interest to the field; or recent developments in research and instructional techniques.

In some fields, notably comparative government, the division of interest among the sections will be geographical. Thus section meetings are being planned on the Far East, Latin America, Western Europe, etc. In other fields, it is expected that the sections will be divided on the basis of anticipated attendance. Thus, in public administration, it is altogether likely that two sections will consider the same topic. The differentiation will consist solely in the different set of participants.

The list of participants will be assembled in two ways. A section chairman is expected to invite some participants for his particular discussion group. In addition, the central office of the Association is circularizing the department chairmen at various colleges and universities to find out who plans to attend the meet-

ing in Buffalo and who wishes to participate in the various sections.

This program arrangement will not prevent persons from wandering about and sampling various discussions. Nor will it eliminate the usual congregating in hotel corridors. But at least it will guarantee a "hard core" of some participants in each section.

The construction of this year's program has run into a number of difficulties. How well these can be surmounted remains to be seen. For one thing, many political scientists have been uncertain whether they were going to Buffalo for the meeting from August 26 to 28. The time and place of the meeting, in combination, present certain obstacles, at least as viewed from the vantage point of those planning the program. In addition, some political scientists are not enthusiastic about helping to work out a program. If the same names and faces appear year after year on the program of our annual meeting, it is consequently easy to understand why. Moreover, the proposed program arrangement does not give too much scope for special hobbies, and for this reason certain enthusiasts for very highly specialized topics of discussion are not happy.

At least this year's annual meeting is launched upon a "noble experiment" in program construction. How satisfactory it may turn out can only be judged after the event.—
JOHN D. MILLETT.