

of 105 public school superintendents in the state of Massachusetts and 508 school board members to whom these superintendents are responsible. Data for the study of these superintendents' roles were collected through carefully structured interviews, lasting a full day for each superintendent and averaging two hours for each school board member. The interview with the superintendent covered such topics as the division of labor between the superintendent and his board, his satisfaction with his job, his evaluation of individual board members, his freedom of action, and his perceptions concerning the persons in the community who influenced his decisions. Many of the same areas were covered, but less extensively, in the interviews with the school board members.

The analysis of the data collected in these interviews centered about role consensus, or the degree of agreement among individuals regarding a characteristic of the superintendent's position. A number of hypotheses were formulated and tested against the empirical data. These hypotheses concerned a wide range of variables presumed to be relevant to the subject of the extent of agreement among superintendents. Many of the hypotheses were given support by the data.

Despite the fact that the authors treat a large mass of empirical data, the emphasis of the book is clearly theoretical. In this regard, the authors first provide thorough but succinct discussions of their key concepts and then strike out in new directions. In so doing they extend the usefulness of the concepts of role analysis for social scientists.

Although the reader who approaches the book with a desire to learn more about the public school superintendent's job will not be disappointed, it is the advanced student in the social sciences who will find it most rewarding.

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Method and Theory in American Archaeology. Gordon R. Willey and Philip Phillips. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1958. ix + 270 pp. \$4.75.

The basic material in this book first appeared in two articles in the *American Anthropologist*, in 1953 and 1955. The flood of comments and criticism which followed so stimulated the authors that they rewrote and combined the original papers, added an introduction in the form of a brief article previously printed in another journal, and produced the present volume. The chief objective of the Willey and Phillips studies was to

determine if it would be possible to make a gross classification of all New World archaeological data under a small number of broad developmental stages, and if the results would be useful. To this end they reviewed and evaluated previous concepts and practices and reached the conclusion that, so far as the New World is concerned, the theoretical aspects of archaeology are definitely anthropological and that the archaeologists can not escape giving consideration to some of the basic questions of anthropological theory. Thus, the big problem for the archaeologist is the interpretation of his findings as social and cultural phenomena in the anthropological sense.

The authors believe that archaeological data must be organized in units that correspond to the social and cultural aspects of anthropology. They propose and define a series of such units and, after extended discussion, indicate that it is only in those of the smallest magnitude that there are clear-cut social equivalents, although there are vague hints of such in some larger units. Culturally, the situation is better.

The remainder of the book concerns the historical-developmental approach toward a synthesis of New World prehistory. The archaeological data are grouped in five major stages, and the manifestations in the various areas belonging to each stage are discussed. The categories to which certain types of remains are assigned probably will be a matter of some disagreement, but an interesting review of aboriginal culture-history in the New World is presented. The book is well written and provocative. It is for the advanced student and professional anthropologist rather than the general reader.

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Principles of Economic Policy. Kenneth E. Boulding. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1958. viii + 440 pp. \$7.95.

This is a book with a variety of ingredients: rigorous economic reasoning, ethical goal-setting, wise and at times humorous *aperçus*—and all bound together in a clear and unpretentious language. The architecture of the book is very simple. It uses as foundation a discussion of four policy objectives: economic progress, economic stability, economic justice, and economic freedom. On this basis are erected as columns the various types of economic policy—namely, fiscal and financial policies, social ("income maintenance") policy, foreign economic policy, and government policies concerning business enterprises, agriculture, and labor. These columns are joined in a dome formed by a "sci-

ence" of government, eventually to replace the present "craft" of government. This science grows out of a theory of value systems. The book is stimulating, honest (it emphasizes not only what we know but also what we do not know), and tolerant (it avoids black-white statements and eschews dogmatism).

In a book dealing with a topic as broad as economic policy it would be a miracle if the reviewer did not find that important aspects are not adequately treated.

Economic policy is discussed as if it is made in a social vacuum. Economic policy is determined not only by the decisions of philosopher-statesmen but by political processes and pressures which embrace both group and individual self-interests and responsiveness to ideals. Even a book on principles should convey to the reader a notion of the social and political forces which move economic policy. Our problems in economic policy cannot be understood without being seen in political-sociological perspective.

Scattered throughout the book are a number of cogent remarks about deficiencies and gaps in a private market system which make government economic policy a necessity. A full chapter dealing with this topic in a systematic manner would, I feel, have been useful. A theory of government economic policy should, in my opinion, be based in part on the theory of the deficiencies in the pure market economy.

There is no discussion of economic policy as it relates to such important fields as promotion of transportation and conservation and development of natural resources and stimulation of research. Nor is there more than passing reference to education and training, which are government responsibilities of great economic importance.

It is obvious that no book of manageable size can deal with all aspects of economic policy. I mention these omissions not so much by way of criticism as in order to indicate what the reader can and cannot expect to find.

I would not have the right to call myself a brother-economist if I did not find some statements in the book to which I take exception. An example is the rather conventional treatment of tax incidence, particularly of the corporate tax, with which I cannot agree.

I believe this work will be a great success, not only because of its rewarding substance but also because of the novel practice of summarizing each chapter in doggerel, all of which is good and some of which is superb in humor and wisdom. Therefore, my advice is:

If you are bored with political economy
Try Boulding's economic poetry.

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