

not develop this theme is but one frustration. The academic press chose a paper and a printing process that flattens and diminishes the photographs and, unfortunately, did not provide enough images to explain the story. These are minor quibbles, however. More importantly, Kahn is finally situated in the Philadelphia where he actually lived and that shaped his work as an exponent of the nineteenth-century industrial culture in which form had meaning.

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GEORGE E. THOMAS

Daniel J. Flood, A Biography: The Congressional Career of an Economic Savior and Cold War Nationalist. By SHELDON SPEAR. (Bethlehem, PA: Lehigh University Press, 2008. 190 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$44.50.)

Daniel J. Flood (1903–94) represented Pennsylvania's Eleventh Congressional District for sixteen terms between 1944 and 1980 (he lost reelection twice during this period). In his balanced biography of Flood, Sheldon Spear recognizes that the congressman had a reputation as a consummate pork-barrel politician, an unbending commitment to his district and the working class, and a dramatic flair that was witnessed in show-stopping speeches and a wardrobe of capes, top hats, and canes similar to that of a vaudeville actor. Indeed, in a previous career, Flood had been a stage actor, and he carried those skills with him to Congress.

Flood was born into a modest family in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, and rose to chair the Labor, Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations Subcommittee and served as vice-chair of the powerful Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. Combined, these subcommittees controlled three hundred billion dollars in federal spending during the 1970s. Moreover, Flood was a vocal advocate for and sponsor of important federal legislation, including the 1961 Area Redevelopment Act, which led to massive spending in Appalachia and, by the late 1960s, the Appalachian Regional Commission. He also cosponsored Medicare, Medicaid, and other social welfare programs. Perhaps his most important piece of legislation was the 1969 Coal Mine Health and Safety Act that, for the first time, mandated mine safety standards and compensated mineworkers afflicted with the dreaded Black Lung disease. To sway congressional votes in support of this law, Flood gave a very dramatic speech on the House floor that Speaker Tip O'Neill said was one of the two or three most persuasive speeches he had ever heard.

Spear provides an overview of U.S. Department of Justice and House Ethics Committee investigations of Flood for allegedly accepting sixty-five thousand dollars in bribes for his influence in swaying bids for federal contracts and steering money to favorite projects. One interpretation is that Flood allowed too

much leeway to his key aid, Stephen Elko, and that it was he who accepted bribes and peddled influence. Flood resigned in 1980. He was then tried, though the jury couldn't reach a unanimous decision; it ended in a mistrial. A few jurors reported that they could not bring themselves to convict the aging congressman who had dedicated a good part of his career in service to others. The extent of Flood's involvement remains unknown.

Spear reveals other questionable matters in Flood's background. For example, Flood claimed to have earned a masters degree from Syracuse University, but Spear's investigation reveals that no records exist to verify the claim. Moreover, he often accepted free vacation flights from Colonial Airlines. Dan Flood was revered, nevertheless, and his constituents considered him nearly omnipotent. Indeed by the late 1970s, the Republican Party would seldom run opposition candidates, and, if they did, they knew that loss was inevitable. In fact, following indictment in 1978, Flood was reelected by a landslide.

Sheldon Spear makes a significant contribution to American and Pennsylvania political history by focusing on the power of an important congressman in an era of tremendous growth in the federal government and its spending. Spear's greatest contribution, besides his thorough historical research, is balance in interpretation. Though he cared a great deal for the underprivileged, Flood was not godlike. Perhaps the only criticism that is appropriate is that the book is too brief.

Students, scholars, public officials, and the general public can benefit from the work of Dr. Spears, a scholar who has contributed a great deal to our knowledge of the history of Pennsylvania's anthracite region.

*Pennsylvania Historical
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KENNETH C. WOLENSKY

The Realignment of Pennsylvania Politics since 1960: Two-Party Competition in a Battleground State. By RENÉE M. LAMIS. (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2009. 432 pp. Figures, tables, appendix, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$65.)

In her book, *The Realignment of Pennsylvania Politics since 1960*, Renée M. Lamis charts the partisan shift that has occurred in a state that was one of the most solidly Republican in the nation. To illustrate, prior to the Great Depression, Pennsylvania's entire thirty-six-member congressional delegation was composed of Republicans. Even after the economic catastrophe, the Keystone State was the only one in the nation outside of New England that Herbert Hoover managed to carry against Franklin D. Roosevelt. However, much has changed in the years since, and now the Democrats are able to claim