esting. This volume is an important contribution to the history of the United States by a scholar, historian, and writer of talent.

_Pittsburgh_  
JOSPEH G. SMITH


"The 'New Wave' of Reconstruction historiography has crested," according to Professor Benedict (Ohio State University) in the preface to this significant tomelike study of the "tensions and divisions of the Radical Republicans." He frankly admits that his approach will produce a distorted picture and it does. Such forthrightness is rare indeed in academe. Benedict's major thrusts are that Radical Reconstruction was not radical at all, that the conservative-centrist Republicans controlled the committee machinery in Congress, that Johnson erred in ways that united an otherwise divided party, and that factionalism at the state level within the party impacted considerably on congressional policy. These conclusions are hardly new; however, he surveys the labyrinthian twists and turns of the political machinations of a victorious party with a clearness and verve that is seldom accomplished in political history. In addition, he plows huge furrows through the byzantine milieu with broad historiographical strokes of interpretative synthesis within the conceptual framework established.

Specifically, Benedict concludes that the "Radical" (ideological) Radicals, as opposed to the Conservative (merely anti-Johnson) Radicals, failed completely to disperse the Johnson state governments, to create territorial governments in order that all Southerners could educate themselves to democracy, to guarantee education and land reform, to have widespread disfranchisement, to proceed with Reconstruction via congressional control, to place only Republicans in control of restoration, or to remove Johnson from office. The one Radical success, black suffrage, was made ineffective by other failures. Concerning black suffrage, the author argues that the Republican party was prepared to support it in the South in 1865. This reviewer is not convinced.

Benedict attempts to use a few social science techniques, notably the Guttman scale, to identify the subgroups on specific issues during the Thirty-eighth through the Fortieth congresses. The data (seventy
pages plus) are "merely to explicate points that I intend to prove through more traditional historical methods." Again he is correct; his work is primarily a study of elites within the congressional hierarchy, even though the publication of the quantitative data is a contribution to Reconstruction literature.

Most of the final chapters have already appeared in print in revised and expanded form. In *The Impeachment and Trial of Andrew Johnson* (1973), Benedict concluded that Johnson could have been removed constitutionally, and the dashing of Radical hopes in the election of 1867 appeared in *Civil War History* (1972). The endnotes (over fifty pages in small print) indicate prodigious research in state and federal archives and are filled with fascinating data for the scholar of the period. On the whole, Benedict and Norton press are to be commended for putting together an expensive monograph that is well written and edited. Whether Reconstruction revisionism has crested or not, Professor Benedict's work is now the starting point for much of the scholarship that must continue.

*Department of History*  
*California State College*  
*California, Pennsylvania*  

J. Kent Folmar


Only one man could have written these two books, whose roots go back to the author's early life, more than four decades ago. Not only had he grown up along the route of the Philadelphia and Erie, but it figured in his doctoral dissertation at Cornell University on "Public Utility Regulation in Pennsylvania." After receiving his degree in 1932 he lived in Clinton County for almost three years as educational director for the Civilian Conservation Corps.

It was during this period that Rosenberger gathered and wrote the first fifteen folk tales contained in *Mountain Folks*, reprinted exactly as they first appeared in the *Clinton County Weekly* at Lock Haven in 1934-1935. (The final two and the ballad which accompanies one were collected and written by this reviewer, and published a