

and work hours. "Slogans like 'workers' control' and 'production for use'... were seldom heard any longer," says Montgomery, "except ironically in the rhetoric of corporate public relations."

Contemporary Affairs

**THE LIFE OF THE PARTY:
Democratic Prospects in
1988 and Beyond**

by Robert Kuttner
Viking, 1987
265 pp. \$18.95

It is time, says Kuttner, economics correspondent for *The New Republic*, to run a "real Democrat" on a "real Democratic platform." The modern party "begins with Roosevelt" and "peaks with Johnson." Since 1964, the party has lost its nerve—and every presidential election but one.

Many Democrats, and most political commentators, concluded as early as 1970 that the party should abandon its commitment to activist government and economic populism and cleave to a cautious, centrist policy. This so-called cure only made matters worse, Kuttner maintains. But ever-more-costly campaigns kept Democratic candidates in thrall to big-money contributors, individual and corporate. All but ignored, the party's progressive-populist wing splintered into mutually destructive special-interest groups, variously clamoring for clean air or women's rights.

Kuttner prescribes a host of remedies for the ailing party. These range from fund-raising strategies (direct-mail campaigns aimed at small donors) to ways of attacking voter apathy. The best cure for such indifference, Kuttner holds, is for the party to champion truly liberal programs, including workfare, national health care, and higher taxes on corporations and wealthy individuals. Not to do so, says Kuttner, will only vindicate Harry S. Truman's words: "When the voters have a choice between a Republican and a Republican, they'll pick the Republican every time."

**CHINA'S SECOND
REVOLUTION:**

Reform after Mao
by Harry Harding
Brookings, 1987
369 pp. \$32.95

After Mao Zedong's death in September 1976, the leadership of the People's Republic of China (PRC) faced not only a succession crisis but many nation-crippling ills: economic stagnation and inefficiency, bureaucratic breakdown, and the alienation of millions of the Cultural Revolution's surviving victims. Harding, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, offers an astute overview of the decade-old "second revolution" that has, after fits