

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

*Badmouthing the
Bureaucracy*

"Good-for-Nothing Government" by Robert Samuelson, in *The New Republic* (May 15, 1976), 1220 19th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Samuelson, a Washington writer for the *Financial Times* of London, challenges the revived election-year notions that the federal bureaucracy has grown enormously in the past decade; that federal workers are grossly overpaid; that the government could be more effective and less costly if it were reorganized. In fact, Samuelson notes, federal civilian employment has grown by about 25 percent (to 2,786,000) since 1947, leaving the ratio of federal workers to total U.S. population lower than it was 29 years ago. State and local government employment, however, has grown 150 percent (to 10.1 million) since 1952. Average pay for federal workers rose by a higher percentage between 1955 and 1973 than the average for all workers in the private economy. But this disparity was caused largely by the proliferation of programs (space, air traffic control systems) requiring trained professionals. Samuelson concedes that some middle managers are overpaid but insists the trouble "lies not with the pay system, but with useless agencies and useless jobs." Creating new bureaucratic conglomerates (like the Department of Transportation) will not reduce the size of government or make the bureaucracy more responsive. It could even make things worse. New agencies, born of crisis or crusading zeal, can be "an invitation to payroll-padding, exaggerated job descriptions, and bureaucratic empire-building."

FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE

*America's
World View*

"America in a Hostile World" by Zbigniew Brzezinski, in *Foreign Policy* (Summer 1976), 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735.

Abroad, the United States was the embodiment of liberty and progress in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Today, "egalitarianism," not liberty, flavors the rhetoric of spokesmen for the new emerging nations. Brzezinski, a Columbia professor and recent foreign policy advisor to Jimmy Carter, seeks to analyze America's growing sense of estrangement.

Third World leaders, he writes, seek to gain a bigger share of the world's economic wealth, not to further individual freedom. Americans see this drive as an unwarranted claim on their own hard-won affluence, and Brzezinski warns of a coming mood of "philosophical isolation without precedent in American history."