

# PERIODICALS

*Reviews of articles from periodicals and specialized journals here and abroad*

**POLITICS & GOVERNMENT 13**

**FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE 18**

**ECONOMICS, LABOR & BUSINESS 23**

**SOCIETY 28**

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 33**

**RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY 37**

**PRESS & TELEVISION 39**

**RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT 42**

**ARTS & LETTERS 44**

**OTHER NATIONS 47**

---

## **POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

---

### *Past as Prologue: Congress, 1775-83*

"Between Hawk and Buzzard: Congress as Perceived by Its Members, 1775-1783" by Arnold M. Pavlovsky, in *The Pennsylvania Magazine* (July 1977), Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.

Delegates to the Second Continental Congress (1775-81) and the Confederation Congress (1781-83) complained bitterly about the many burdensome legislative duties. Indeed, writes historian Pavlovsky in a review of the delegates' correspondence, the laments of the early years are, for the most part, echoed in Congress's complaints today.

"I know now what has confounded us all day," wrote John Adams in 1775, provoked by long hours, longwindedness, and a maze of detail. Forced to scavenge for money while conducting a war, Congress, he added, had found itself caught "between hawk and buzzard." Other delegates grumbled frequently about the "unwieldy" committee system, absenteeism, corruption, "plagues" of lobbyists, and the high personal cost of holding office.

One of the main complaints concerned the paltry salaries provided by the 13 states. In 1782, a New York delegate reported that Philadelphia, then the capital, was one of the "most extravagant cities in the world." Mutton cost \$15 a pound, and most delegates had to dip into their own pockets or lodge with friends in order to survive. Charles Carroll could not afford to send for a doctor when he fell ill; James Madison, William Ellery, and Roger Sherman could barely afford the stagecoach fare home when Congress adjourned.

Many delegates, however, avoided discomforts altogether by simply staying away. As a result, legislation was often stalled for lack of a quorum, and committee work fell to the few stoics who remained. In 1776, James Lovell of Massachusetts ran the Foreign Affairs Committee single-handedly for 16 weeks.