

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

*Incremental Reform
for Welfare System*

"Approaches to Welfare Reform: The Case for Incrementalism" by Richard P. Nathan, in *City Almanac* (Dec. 1976), New School for Social Research, 66 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011.

The "welfare mess" has been exaggerated, says Nathan, a Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution. Although streamlining and integration of many programs are sorely needed, he argues, others have been largely successful, both in themselves and as part of a general strategy to help the needy.

His "two-track" approach would expand those programs already shown to be generally sound in concept and execution. All "in-kind" benefits (helping 2 million persons in 1971 and 20 million today) have filled the money-income gap. But food stamps—an integral part of in-kind benefits—should be given outright to the needy rather than sold at a discount as at present.

Cash aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) has also worked, but Nathan says the program could be made more effective by instituting a minimum monthly payment and cost-of-living adjustment and permitting benefits nationwide for families with unemployed fathers. Another needed improvement: national health insurance to replace Medicaid and Medicare.

This selective, "incremental" approach, Nathan contends, would eliminate the need for a national income floor, advocated by Brock Adams, now Carter's Secretary of Transportation, and others. It would also avoid "comprehensive" welfare reform, which both stirs up Congress and tends to neglect the very diverse needs of the poor.

*G.O.P. Activism
Grows in South*

"Republican Party Development in the South: The Rise of the Contested Primary" by Merle Black and Earl Black, in *Social Science Quarterly* (Dec. 1976), University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, Tex. 78712.

Between 1900 and 1960, Republican candidates for governor in the traditionally Democratic South were usually selected by state party conventions or nominated in uncontested primaries, which attracted few voters.

Since 1960, this pattern has begun to change, say political scientists Merle Black (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) and Earl Black (University of South Carolina). But vigorous Republican gubernatorial candidacies have been more characteristic of the "peripheral" Southern states—Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia—than of the Deep South—Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina. Only in South Carolina did the Republican