
POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

quality management information, and increased involvement of personnel "at the activity level" in the state's budgeting process. The major disadvantage is the added time and effort required for budget preparation.

Lifetime Legislators

"The Essential Reform" by David Lebedoff, in *Harper's* (Oct. 1976), 2 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Our present system of congressional reapportionment is a disaster, says Lebedoff, a Minneapolis lawyer and treasurer of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota. By leaving reapportionment to be determined by state legislatures, single-party rule in every district is virtually assured.

"The result is a Congress in which nearly every seat is permanently safe," Lebedoff argues. (In 1972, despite the biggest presidential landslide in recent history, only three per cent of incumbent seats in the House were lost.) With little real chance for partisan contest, political parties atrophy. One-party dominance of congressional districts has put the House of Representatives out of touch with the people and eager to avoid tough decisions that can be ducked with impunity. The controversial issues (abortion, busing) have gone to the federal courts by default.

Thanks to this system, "we are burdened with lifetime legislators, whose tenure is threatened only by senility, death, or scandal," writes Lebedoff. "They can fudge and avoid and delay all they want, and not be held accountable."

His solution? Take congressional reapportionment away from the state legislators and give it to a federal reapportionment board with a general mandate to avoid single-party dominance.

FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE

*Triangular
Asymmetry*

"Trilateralism: 'Partnership for What?'" by Richard H. Ullman, in *Foreign Affairs* (Oct. 1976), 428 East Preston Ct., Baltimore, Md. 21202.

"Trilateralism" is the fashionable word among those American specialists (e.g., Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski, Columbia professor and former director of the Trilateral Commission) who believe that closer coordination among the United States, Japan, and Western Europe in dealings with the communists and the Third World can help resolve many of America's foreign-policy problems in the 1970s.