
Schultze hope, the end of eight years of divided government will make public controversy about policy less simplistic, this compendium of modest, pragmatic proposals could be a citizen's mainstay.

THE POLITICS OF EXCLUSION

By Michael N. Danielson
Columbia, 1976, 443 pp.
\$17.50 cloth, \$6.95 paper
L of C 76-7609
ISBN 0-231-03697-3
ISBN 0-231-08342-4 pbk.

In terms of housing for minorities and the poor, the United States is retreating from its commitment to an open society, says Princeton professor Danielson. Two primary factors contribute to the retreat: fragmentation of authority and responsibility among local governments in big urban areas hampers concerted action to equalize opportunities; and there is a weakening of commitment to open housing goals on the part of Washington. Danielson strongly favors moves to lower suburban barriers that affect low-income and minority families but is pessimistic that much can be done, given the limited impact of legal rulings in separated areas. In this cogent study, he uses the evidence for open housing selectively to support his own point of view, scorning different perspectives or alternative arrangements. But even those who disagree with him will find his book stimulating and provocative.

THE POLITICS OF ADOPTION

By Mary Kathleen Benet
Free Press, 1976
235 pp. \$8.95
L of C 76-14287
ISBN 0-02-902500-1.

Ms. Benet traces the history of adoption of children as it has been practiced and regarded in Eastern and Western civilizations, relating past experience to present-day research, particularly in the United States. Practical, moral, psychological, highly political questions always crop up, reflecting larger issues of kinship, race, poverty, and nationalism. In a foreword, psychologist Robert Jay Lifton (whose wife was an adopted daughter) addresses himself to contemporary Americans, pleading that "we are surely capable of evolving a system of adoption which opens out toward truth." He recommends reconsideration of "the strange legal policy of the sealing of records" and the "equally strange role of adoption agencies in perpetuating the whole constellation of de-