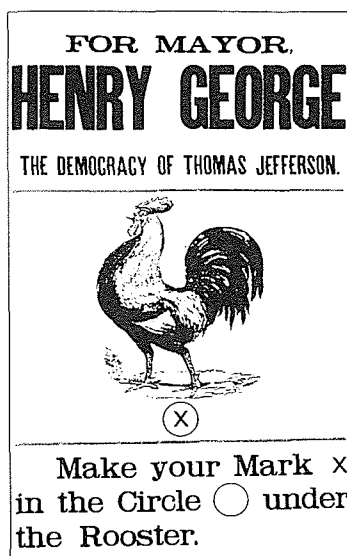


**POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

*With enthusiastic support from organized labor, Henry George ran for mayor of New York in 1886. Despite a lack of poll watchers—crucial in those days of stolen elections—George garnered a respectable 68,110 votes. Democrat Abram S. Hewitt won with 90,552, and the Republican candidate, Theodore Roosevelt, was third with 60,435.*

*Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York City*



acreage along new highways or subway lines. Moreover, George would probably have taxed polluters heavily to halt environmental degradation, and taxed away part of the profits from mining and extraction to recover the benefits owed to society. "Henry George," says Hapgood, "speaks to the present quite as eloquently as he did to the past."

*The Disenchanted  
Black Voter*

"Leaders Sans Troupes: Diregeants Noirs et Masses Noirs" by Laura Armand-Maslow, in *Revue Francaise de Science Politique* (Feb. 1978), 27 rue Saint Guillaume, 75341, Paris.

Politics for black Americans is currently marked by a curious dichotomy: There is a new unanimity and consensus on ideology and tactics among black political leaders, and, at the same time, a growing disinterest in politics among the black masses.

The consensus has been achieved, writes Armand-Maslow, a University of Paris political scientist, through a shift to the left by groups such as the NAACP and the National Urban League and a shift to the right by black revolutionary organizations that previously had failed to win mass support. The movement of black leaders into the political mainstream has resulted in a 400-percent increase in the number of black officeholders since 1958 (including the mayors of Los Angeles, Detroit, Atlanta, and Newark) and a virtual end to violent tactics since 1972.

But blacks have tended to concentrate their political activity at the

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municipal level, says Armand-Maslow. Black city dwellers have quickly become disillusioned by the failure of local black office-holders to improve urban conditions. Furthermore, black voters showed their indifference to national politics in 1976 when only 33 percent of eligible blacks voted in the presidential primaries and only 38 percent in the general election—a sharp drop from the late 1960s.

The real power available to black politicians is at the state and federal levels, where blacks have gained seniority and powerful committee positions in Congress and state legislatures. But black politicians must demonstrate an ability to solve problems of education, housing, and unemployment. Otherwise, Armand-Maslow concludes, they will evolve as a group apart from their power base and will ultimately be absorbed by the dominant white community.

### *Murky Ways*

“Buggings, Break-Ins & the FBI” by James Q. Wilson, in *Commentary* (June 1978), 165 E. 56th St., New York, N.Y. 10022.

The recent prosecution of former FBI officials for having ordered illegal surreptitious entries and warrantless searches (commonly known as “black bag jobs”) raises difficult questions about the relationship between constitutional guarantees of privacy and the police problems of investigating well-organized conspiracies.

Current laws governing police wiretaps, surreptitious entries, and surveillance are murky, writes Wilson, a Harvard professor of government. As a result of a 1972 Supreme Court decision that distinguished between “foreign” and “domestic” security cases, the U.S. Justice Department directs its “warrantless electronic surveillance” only against agents of foreign powers. But as Wilson points out, “There is no existing legal standard by which one can easily judge whether an American citizen has ties sufficiently close to a foreign power to make him an agent of that power.”

Officials responsible for national security will be seriously handicapped if all searches or intercepts must meet the same standards for obtaining a judicial warrant as apply to criminal cases (i.e., showing probable cause that the person in question has committed or is about to commit a crime, or has in his possession the fruits of a crime).

Granted that there are reasonable grounds for warrantless surveillance in some cases, says Wilson, the authority to decide on the use of such techniques should not be left entirely in the hands of the President of the United States or his Attorney General. “What is needed,” he concludes, “is an independent review mechanism that can prevent unjustified or political uses of the national-security authority without having to follow the same standards now governing the issuance of warrants in ordinary criminal cases where prosecution, not intelligence, is the goal.”