

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Robert F. Kennedy, and John Mitchell. Presidents Johnson and Carter broke with the tradition.)

This practice, says Rogovin, a former U.S. assistant attorney general, "places tremendous strain on the Justice Department's capacity to administer justice evenly and on the public's perception of the quality of justice administered."

There are more than 300 presidential appointees within the Justice Department, and the patronage system also is commonly used to fill some 1,700 attorney jobs in the 94 United States attorneys' offices around the country.

Rogovin urges that the Department be depoliticized. He would bar the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the solicitor general, and all assistant attorneys general from any political activity. Further, all U.S. attorneys and assistant U.S. attorneys should be made part of the career legal service. Finally, the Attorney General, as chief prosecutor, should not have the responsibility to "recommend, screen, and then defend the administration's appointments to the federal judiciary," as is now the case.

Only 8.3 percent of the Justice Department's \$2.3 billion budget for fiscal year 1978 is spent on general legal activities, while about 30 percent is devoted to grants given by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and 10 percent to the Bureau of Prisons. Arguing that "public confidence in the impartial administration of justice is waning," Rogovin would also separate the Department from all correctional functions and from the politics of grant-making.

Keeping the Books

"Are We Starving Our Libraries?" by
Clint Page, in *Nation's Cities* (July 1978),
1620 Eye St. N.W., Washington, D.C.
20006.

Across the United States, urban libraries are cutting staffs, reducing hours and services, and buying fewer books and other materials because of inflation and reduced budgets, writes Page, associate editor of *Nation's Cities*.

Since 1967, the average price of a book has gone from \$8.43 to \$18.03, while magazine subscriptions have risen from an average of \$8.03 to \$24.59. Tax support is shrinking at a time when library administrators must remodel their buildings (many of them architectural landmarks) to make them more energy efficient and more accessible to the handicapped.

Large, urban libraries, says Page, serve whole states and entire regions (4 percent of the country's libraries meet 25 percent of the rural libraries' needs for interlibrary loans). Yet, state support of local public libraries is lagging. Despite the fact that libraries are educational institutions, state governments across the nation provide 43.6 percent of the financial support for public schools but only 12.9 percent of the support for public libraries.

Page urges immediate federal help in the form of adequate funding

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for the 1965 Library Services and Construction Act, designed to help states extend and improve library services, aid construction and inter-library cooperation, and provide special help to big-city libraries. (Congress *authorized* \$110 million for fiscal year 1978 and \$140 million for 1979, but only *appropriated* \$60.2 million each year.)

FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE

*The Country
They Love to Hate*

"Reflections on Anti-Americanism in Our Times" by Paul Hollander, in *Worldview* (June 1978), P.O. Box 986, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735.

The United States has been the subject of more denunciation, hostility, and abuse by foreign ideologues and intellectuals than any other nation in the world.

Hollander, a University of Massachusetts sociologist, attributes this worldwide animosity to America's affluence, its pervasive cultural presence (which, thanks to American movies, magazines, and television, extends through much of the world), and the recent notion that the United States is a superpower without the will or capacity to achieve its foreign policy goals (e.g., in Indochina). Helping to tarnish the nation's image is the fact that so much is known about the United States. Also contributing is the strident anti-Americanism of American intellectuals (such as Herbert Marcuse, Noam Chomsky, and Susan Sontag) who seem ridden by guilt over the alleged injustice and corruption of their own social and political system.



American cartoonist Cobb expresses a common vision of America in this drawing of a rapacious Uncle Sam devouring an unending stream of the world's dwindling resources.

From Cobb Again (Glebe, N.S.W. Australia: Wild and Woolley Printing, Ltd., 1976).