

AUTHORITY

by Richard Sennett
Knopf, 1980, 206 pp.
\$10 cloth; Vintage,
1981, 228 pp.
\$4.95 paper

The bloody 1894 Pullman strike began in a community that, at the time, was considered the most successful company town in America—Pullman, Ill. Sennett, a humanities professor at New York University, suggests two reasons why employee dissatisfaction exploded there: Workers were well cared for but were not allowed to buy their homes, a restriction that thwarted the dreams of many immigrants; when things went wrong—e.g., a drop in demand caused temporary layoffs—workers held authority figure George Pullman personally responsible and were loath to recognize that external factors played a role in their fates. This case study is one of several in *Authority*, the first of a projected four books by the author on the “emotional bonds of modern society” (the others are solitude, fraternity, and ritual). Sennett has woven historic precedents, findings from psychoanalysis, sociological thought (including the theories of Locke, Bentham, Weber), and literary examples (Shakespeare, Dostoevsky, Proust) into a broad philosophical rumination on the nature of authority.

**THE WINDING PASSAGE:
Essays and Sociological
Journeys, 1960–1980**

by Daniel Bell
Abt, 1980
370 pp. \$25

Recently in these pages, the influential Harvard sociologist Daniel Bell asserted that he had “rarely written ‘unambiguously’ about anything.” This may demonstrate why Bell is claimed by the Right *and* the Left, and why he repeatedly confounds both. It also explains why these 17 essays originally appeared in periodicals with very different outlooks: *Commentary*, *Partisan Review*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The American Scholar*, among others. Pursuing themes developed in *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society* (1973) and *The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism* (1976), Bell ruminates on ethnicity, national character, religion, and technology. Rarely does he offer cures for America’s ills. But he defines this country’s dilemma: Its economy, polity, and culture are rooted in separate traditions, each with its own arcane rules. For example, business corporations want employees “to work hard [and] accept delayed gratification.” Yet their products and advertisements promote

"instant joy, relaxing and letting go." Such contradictions make for an unstable society; but, concludes Bell, no *single* social or economic theory offers a quick fix.

**EMPLOYING THE
UNEMPLOYED**

edited by Eli Ginzberg
Basic, 1980
209 pp. \$15

During the 1960s, the federal government's strategy for alleviating joblessness focused on providing the unemployed with competitive skills and experience. But during the '70s, the emphasis shifted to the direct creation of jobs, especially in depressed cities. As a result, the cost to the taxpayers rose from \$81 million in 1963 to \$11 billion in 1979. The authors of this collection of 11 essays—economists, social scientists, and government administrators—calculate some of the benefits and costs of federal jobs programs, which they generally endorse. Judith Gueron of the Manpower Research Corporation finds that work-support programs have helped women recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children find and keep jobs; the government has had less success with young people. MIT economist Lester Thurow maintains that the earnings gap between rich and poor can best be narrowed by (admittedly expensive) wage subsidies rather than by efforts to improve a worker's "employability." In this detailed survey, one key calculation is absent: How many jobs would have been created had the \$64 billion spent in 1962-79 remained in the private sector?

Arts & Letters

**PISSARRO: His
Life and Work**

by Ralph E. Shikes and
Paula Harper
Horizon, 1980
362 pp. \$24.95

While maintaining close ties to his devout middle-class family of Parisian Jewish merchants, Camille Pissarro (1830-1903) lived the hand-to-mouth existence of the struggling artist. Art historians Shikes and Harper's exhaustive biography of the "first impressionist" is based largely on his unpublished letters. Pissarro, the authors emphasize, was a keeper of commitments—to his private artis-