

ness leaders join with blacks to bring about real change. In 1971, the school system of Greensboro was finally integrated—17 years after the famous *Brown* decision.

Contemporary Affairs

**THE STATE OF THE
PRESIDENCY**

by Thomas E. Cronin
Little, Brown, 2nd ed., 1980
417 pp. \$14.95

Americans want a President who is just and decent *and* tough and forceful. We admire humility, but most great leaders have been exceedingly vain, and the public equates being "too nice" with being "too soft." Americans themselves are, to a large extent, to blame for their disillusionment with politicians, contends Cronin, a political scientist at the University of Delaware. (Forty-seven percent of eligible voters stayed away from the polls in 1976.) Cronin reflects that "the presidency was not designed to perform the countless leadership functions that we have come to demand of it." Under the Constitution, he notes, in almost every instance (save, perhaps, the pardon) presidential powers are "shared powers." The President is not free to monopolize policymaking. Yet, today, the chief executive is expected to assume roles—international peacemaker, moral leader, economic manager—not spelled out with any clarity by the nation's founders. This edition of Cronin's 1975 study of the political pressures that have shaped contemporary Presidents' performances includes data from interviews with private citizens, White House aides, Cabinet officials, and Oval Office advisers, from the Kennedy through the Carter administrations.

**UNLOVING CARE: The
Nursing Home Tragedy**

by Bruce C. Vladeck
Basic, 1980
305 pp. \$13.95

More than one and a quarter million elderly Americans reside in nursing homes. The cost of their care exceeds \$12 billion a year. Tax dollars, paid out to public and private facilities alike, cover 80 percent of the bill. (Three-fourths of the country's nursing homes are operated for a profit.) This mishmash of state and federal buyers in absentia and cost-