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treaty making, the lack of anything that looks like a real *national* objective in the political leadership of this country during the past decade, but the inevitability of the trend toward national unity in spite of the histrionics, subterfuge, intellectual hypocrisy and political schizophrenia of political and academic leaders, who will shortly pass from the picture (p. 264).

The author strengthens his case by showing that the distribution of incomes also follows the generalized harmonic series, though he combines both corporate and individual incomes to get this result. Moreover, he includes only the incomes of \$5,000 and over, thus excluding over 90 per cent of income receivers. He finds, however, here as elsewhere, indications of prerevolutionary conditions, since the tail of the line shows a marked deficiency. Sociologists will be interested in his study of "cultural drives" toward national unity, or the unification of the psychological aspects of the national life. As one reads, he will have many questions to put to the author and some contradictions; but since this is an avowedly empirical study he may well wait for the further expositions that are here promised. Whether or not the reader is irritated by the thinly veiled sarcasms hurled at our political mentors will depend largely on whether he feels that the occupant of the White House is a real statesman or a Machiavellian politician.

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LASSWELL, HAROLD D. *Democracy Through Public Opinion*. Pp. 176. Menasha, Wis.: George Banta Publishing Co., 1941. \$1.50.

Dr. Lasswell has dealt for a number of years with a dangerous method, that of psychopathology as related to politics. It may be urged that a person of the standing of the author of this volume would be forced finally to speak on the problem of American democracy. While many current works on democracy may leave the reader in an intellectual vacuum, such is not the case with this volume, which states for many of us the problem of tomorrow rather than the issue of yesterday. Without in-

dulging in excessive praise, it may be said that this volume, perhaps alone among many, investigates the relation of democracy and semantics, the place of "communications" in democracy, and the problem of the psychological phases of the political process. It is a book, for example, that all interested in adult education should put on their "must" list. It is a work which expresses better than others the correlation of the spirit of objectivity in social science and the statement of high social purpose. Dr. Lasswell sets out to be socially inventive, and the book offers on many a page new techniques for dealing with old questions.

The author accepts the current desire to preserve the democratic system, and he defines democracy as the practice of justice through majority rule. But justice means respecting the capacity of every individual to contribute to the common life. As Socrates sought justice with dialectics, Lasswell seeks it with analytic psychology. While his distinctions between public opinion in the public interest and other manifestations of opinion may seem a little abstract and unreal, his prescriptions on how to think about what we read, see, and hear, are not. And when he urges that every citizen use simple techniques of free association to discover the sources of emotion about issues, he is making suggestions of far-reaching implication. On the other hand, Lasswell insists that the average citizen should recognize the function of the "specialists on intelligence," and he stresses the emergent function of the public relations expert in our democracy. Beyond this, the author offers specific devices by which democracy may discover a new way to talk and to examine the verbal symbolism of public discussion. The final chapters of the book deal with a program which, if used, might save the democratic way from internal disorganization.

This volume ably demonstrates one thing: semantics, analytic psychology, and the study of communications can suggest new social inventions which may enable the democracy of the machine age to function more effectively.

FRANCIS G. WILSON

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*Press Today*. Pp. :  
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