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Communications

Editorial communications should be sent to the Editor in care of the UALR Graduate School, 33rd and University, Little Rock, AR 72204. Requests for single copies, \$10.00 each, plus \$1.00 for mailing charge, should be sent to the Business Manager in care of Rose Publishing Company, 301 South Louisiana, Little Rock, AR 72201.

Manuscripts

Manuscripts submitted for consideration should be typed on standard typewriter paper and double-spaced throughout. Notes should appear at the end of the manuscript and also be double-spaced. Tables and illustrations should appear on separate sheets, one per sheet, with notes in the manuscript to indicate preferred placement. Manuscripts will be evaluated anonymously by appropriate referees. Four copies should be presented.

The Arkansas Political Science Journal is published by the Arkansas Political Science Association. Views expressed are those of the authors, not of the Association.

Number Three

Whether Number Three is the final issue of the Arkansas Political Science Association's experiment in publishing a journal, or whether Number Three is merely the third in a continuing series, remains to be seen. The future of this **Journal** is to be considered after the appearance of the third issue. This is an opportune moment to note questions which the Association, and any future editor, must address.

There are questions of editorial policy to be reaffirmed or revised. When the decision was made to initiate the **Journal**, the editorial board established by the Executive Board of the Association approved two basic policies which have guided the preparation of each of the first three issues. The first was that the **Journal** would have an Arkansas focus. That is, in the selection of manuscripts for publication, preference would be given to works on Arkansas topics or works utilizing Arkansas data. One argument for adopting and continuing such a policy is that regional and national political science periodicals are generally uninterested in such works. One argument for revising the policy is that many members of the Association are not involved in Arkansas-related research.

The second basic policy was that an anonymous review process, patterned after that of the **American Political Science Review**, would be employed to evaluate manuscripts submitted to the **Journal**. This policy has been a professional and sound one. The objective of anonymity, for both author and referee, has sometimes been difficult to achieve because most political scientists in Arkansas know each other and are aware of their respective research and teaching interests. Sometimes, as a result, the most qualified referee has been passed over in favor of one from out of state.

Other editorial questions derive from the combination of (1) a small association, and (2) a once-a-year journal. Contrary to initial expectation, no space has been devoted to Association news. The dissemination of news of general interest has been left to the Association's newsletter. Nor has space been provided for a book review section. With a small, almost exclusively in-state audience, and with the publication of books on Arkansas politics so infrequent, a book review section would not serve the same purpose as in regional and national publications. In short, maximum space has been reserved for the presentation of research findings.

There are lesser questions. Papers presented at the annual meeting have been received, evaluated, and in some instances published. This follows the practice of regional and national publications. Is this the most appropriate use of the **Journal's** limited space? Would it be fair or feasible to exclude such papers from consideration? Another question, should the editor of a state association journal give any attention to balance among the campuses? Would there be a problem if three out of four articles in one issue came from a single campus?

Most of these editorial questions would take on a different aspect if the **Journal** were published twice instead of once a year. Further, a twice-a-year publication would not only double the space available but would increase the **Journal's** visibility and impact many times over. Library staffs would pay more attention to it, as would readers both inside and outside the state. Prospective authors could plan their research and submissions more effectively. An issue devoted to a special topic — the Governorship, the General Assembly, or the Supreme Court, to cite the most obvious — could be planned and published from time to time.

A twice-a-year publication has, however, been an unreached goal. To date, no significant, regular subsidy external to the Association has been secured. With a narrow financial base of approximately 50 members, and given the high costs of printing, the **Journal** has been limited to one issue a year — and each annual issue has strained the Association's treasury. Therefore, the central question remains money — not

need, quality of scholarship, or editorial policy. Jesse Unruh, a leader of the Democratic Party in California, has said that money is the mother's milk of politics. Unfortunately, money is also the mother's milk of a good political science journal.

THE EDITOR