

**In the COMMONWEALTH**

**Thomas J. Baldino, Editor**

The time that has passed between the last issue and this one is longer than I anticipated. As a small, state-association-based journal, *Commonwealth* does not attract the large number of authors seeking the publication of their work as *The American Political Science Review* or even *Polity*, so the number of submitted manuscripts from which I must draw to identify publishable ones is limited. For this issue, rather than lower standards in order to publish the journal as scheduled, I decided to wait until a sufficient number of high quality articles appeared and received approval by the reviewers before bringing this issue to print. I hope that my judgment and your patience have been appropriately rewarded in the articles that follow.

The lead article in this issue, by Richard D. White, uses the Harrison Narcotics Act of 1914 to test three models of policy analysis to explain how and why the Act was passed. The models, drawn from Graham Allison's landmark *Essence of Decision*, suggest three different views of the Act. White also raises some interesting questions about the relevance of contemporary drug policy in light of the experience from 1914 statute.

Stanley P. Berard examines the level of electoral competition experienced by members of the House to determine the effects of the competition on a members' votes. Using data taken from Congresses between 1983 and 1991, as well as the ADA scores of representatives, Berard suggests that competitive races may produce more partisan voting in the House, though regional differences exist.

In the article by Daniel A. Austin, the role of neutrality in the international arena is studied. Drawing on Realist and Institutionalist theories, he examines the use of neutrality in five cases -- Bonaparte and the Italian Campaign of April, 1796, The Crimean War, The Boer War, World War I, and the Korean War -- and finds that neutrality norms often provide stability and reduce the spread of conflict among nations engaged in war.

The last two articles study aspects of Pennsylvania's political process and administrative system. Donald W. Beachler's article is concerned with the distribution of the partisan vote across the counties of Pennsylvania in recent presidential elections. By comparing Clinton's 1992 and 1996 vote totals to those of Mondale and Dukakis, Beachler finds that Clinton's victories were achieved by winning more votes in the traditionally Republican suburbs around Philadelphia while seeing traditionally Democratic counties in western Pennsylvania reduce their support for him.

Douglas Champ Chaffey's article is a study of the implementation of Pennsylvania Air Quality program. He is interested in determining the consequences of organizational structure on the implementation of air quality standards in the six regions of the state defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Drawing on interviews with air quality officers and data on the number of permits issued to polluters, Chaffey discovers that differences in enforcement do exist and may be the result of organizational as well as other factors.

Each of the articles contained in this issue has benefited from the work of either Don Tannenbaum of Gettysburg College or Martin Collo of Widener University, who serve as associate editors, and the many reviewers whose constructive criticisms of earlier drafts of the manuscripts improved the quality of the final products. Finally, I must acknowledge the yeoman's effort of my managing editor, Jim Morse of Widener University, who pulls everything together into a package suitable for shipment to the printer. On behalf of the staff of *Commonwealth*, thank you for your continued support of our journal through your membership in the Pennsylvania Political Science Association.