

Book Reviews

RACE QUOTAS IN U.S. UNIVERSITIES

By George C. Roche III. Open Court Publishing Company, La Salle, Illinois. 1974. Pp. 89. Price \$1.95.

At a prodigious cost to American taxpayers, the "reverse racists" in the Nixon-Ford Administration are destroying the higher educational institutions of this country and reducing our academic standards to insipid mediocrity.

In this trenchant and important short volume, George C. Roche III describes how this program operates, the flimsy legal basis upon which it rests, and the injustice and havoc it has already inflicted on the American academic community. A former Marine officer and the author of several books on history and political science, Dr Roche is President of Hillsdale College, an institution which has preserved its freedom by refusing all U.S. Government aid.

The Affirmative Action bureaucracy, which enforces race and sex quotas on all universities and colleges receiving Federal grants, has so proliferated that the Health, Education and Welfare Contract Compliance force alone consists of 500 employees. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which has jurisdiction over all American educational institutions, whether they receive Federal aid or not, projects a budgetary increase of \$43 million at a time when the administration is allegedly combating inflation.

This H.E.W. bureaucratic complex today dominates the hiring, firing, promotion and entrance practices of the nation's institutions of higher education. It does so in the interests of securing proportional representation for so-called minorities. Their definition is obscure. "I envy the young and the young in heart," wrote Milton Himmelfarb, "who do not experience my occasional difficulties in grasping that while American women, who are more than 50 per cent, are a minority, American Jews, who are fewer than 3 per cent, are not a minority."

Since Federal civil rights legislation upholds equal opportunity and bans racial discrimination, H.E.W.'s Office of Civil Rights has had to move with Machiavellian indirection to disguise race quotas as goals and guidelines. Where state laws forbid forcing Americans to identify themselves by race, investigators are hired to determine the ethnic composition of faculties and students by visual inspection and snooping—practices reminiscent of Nazi Germany and wholly at variance with the traditions of free countries.

At stake are \$14 billion of Federal research contracts plus the limitless ability of the Washington bureaucracy to impose legal harassment on educational institutions which refuse to knuckle under.

The paperwork involved in compliance is so vast that Columbia University had to charge the public \$17.25 for copies of its 1972 Affirmative Action program. Small colleges which protested they cannot afford to fill out the forms and reports required by H.E.W. have been told to comply or go under.

One standard that has been advanced is that women and/or members of minority groups must be hired in preference to white males if the minority applicants have skills equal to those of the least competent member of the faculty. Application of this standard means an obvious and calamitous degradation of American academic standards.

Neither H.E.W. nor the evil genius of the program, J. Stanley Pottinger, who has recently been rewarded by promotion, has ever defined minorities. Italo-Americans are included in some Affirmative Action programs; excluded in others. As smaller ethnic groups become aware of the limitless possibilities of the program, their members begin to organize pressure groups to get free passes on the race-minority "gravity" train. In theory, Orientals are such a minority, but a Chinese

friend assures me that they are as ruthlessly discriminated against as are Jews and Americans of West European extraction. All three groups are highly capable and the Pottinger program is evidently designed to favor only those groups which have been unable to make it on their own.

While Negroes are invariably included, some of the more farsighted black leaders have seen the boomerang potential of the program. Thus, Economics Professor Thomas Sowell, a man with an I.Q. of 142 (the same as that of President Kennedy and higher than that of 99 per cent of the white U.S. population) found a mimeographed invitation to teach at Swarthmore which needed "a black economist" unattractive to him "as a scholar or a man." Qualified Blacks have been turned down by leftists in the program because their I.Q.s were too high or because they were not militant enough.

Some white professors automatically give all black students A or B grades. Even the stupidest and laziest are seldom failed. The result is that the black scholar who has earned his way academically by hard work and clear thinking is automatically classified with the "phonies" and ethnic know-nothings as a man with a degree to which he is not entitled.

Since there are not enough competent Blacks, Chicanos, Mexicanos and American Indians to meet H.E.W.-imposed goals, the universities are compelled to pad their staffs with incompetents and semi-literates. Capable teachers, who have the misfortune to belong to the underprivileged race and sex, face possible dismissal and probable denial of promotion. Young white male scholars, who have devoted years to earning their doctorate so they can qualify for a life of teaching and research, are denied such employment regardless of ability.

Under the leadership of Sydney Hook, some of the most prestigious scholars in the U.S. are organizing a growing protest against this iniquitous racist system with its totalitarian overtones. The politicians, however, continue to equivocate and doublespeak. Up to now, President Ford has not displayed the elementary courage needed to cut out this cancer which threatens to reduce American higher education to the miasmal level that one might expect in a banana republic.

Dr Roche has exposed this system in a treatment which is admirably dispassionate, factual and brief. He has shown that it is not only unjust and inhuman (in that it reduces the individual to a statistical norm), but that it has two major practical disadvantages.

The first of these is that the quota system substitutes the incompetent for the competent on the hypothesis that the former belong to a category which has the same potential as that of those displaced. The second disadvantage is less frequently perceived. It is that the quota system automatically rewards the inept because members of underrepresented minorities can almost always find positions in fields or occupations that most members of their group avoid. Female paratroopers, welders and telephone line repairmen will probably always be in short supply as will Jewish hodcarriers, Armenian steeplejacks and Negro accountants. This creates golden opportunities for minority members who are sharp enough to find sinecures, but not industrious enough to hold down regular jobs.

Dr Roche has carefully avoided the issue of differences in the racial I.Q. pattern, while emphasizing individual differences in intelligence and ability. Yet this is the crux of the matter as far as the Negro-White problem is concerned. In the 1965 edition of her standard textbook (*The Psychology of Human Differences*, Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 3rd edition), Dr Leona E. Tyler wrote: "It is improbable that a person with an I.Q. below 125 will succeed at a first-rate graduate school" (p. 76). Now if the average Negro I.Q. is 85 and the standard deviation of the normal curve of error is 15 I.Q. points it is mathematically evident that about 4.8 per cent of the nation's 190 million Whites, as against 0.6 per cent of the nation's 20 million Blacks, qualify by the Tyler standard. This means 9.1 million Whites as compared with 80,000 Blacks. It is evident from these approximate figures that there are not nearly enough American Blacks with the potential required to fill the college faculty and other high-echelon positions which the egalitarian bureaucrats attempt to reserve for them.

NATHANIEL WEYL.

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE: A CONTROVERSIAL HISTORY OF THE JEWS

By John M. Allegro. Doubleday and Company, Garden City, New York, 1972. Pp. 320, 24 plates. Price \$10.

Few people have received so much attention from historians, philosophers, and theologians as the Jews. From all that has been written, the ethnic and cultural origins which account for their ethno-psychology have not been adequately elucidated. This is partly due to a tendency to accept their own descriptions, full of self-protective coloration. John Allegro appears to show the way back, past this camouflage, to a better understanding of Jewish thought and motivation.

Formerly lecturer in Old Testament and Inter-Testamental Studies at Manchester University, Professor Allegro brings to his subject scholarship and originality. Whether or not we accept his theories of Judaic or Christian origins, there is, of course, weight in his bringing together of biblical knowledge and a command of the ancient history and linguistics of the Near East.

From these relatively fixed positions, Allegro draws a triangulation to fix the origins of Jewish hubris and anti-Jewish thought and action or "anti-semitism." For him, keeping the Sabbath and circumcision are but two aspects of a fertility cult and have their origins deep in the consciousness of man. From this the observance of these customs became, for the Jews who had been exiled to Babylon and later returned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, an expression of their faith and a distinguishing mark that served to link them with their tribal history. Racial purity was made obligatory by the prophet Nehemiah, persisting strongly in contemporary intra-Jewish communication. He argues that the continuation of the belief that they are the Chosen Race, through and into the Christian era, that all history is directed to their glorification, causes strife between them and their neighbours.

. . . the doctrine of the Chosen Race whose working out in practical politics was to wreck such havoc among the nations of the world and to bring successive disasters upon the Jews themselves. The history of the Jews as revealed in the Torah became in a sense co-extensive with the story of mankind, and in Adam's supremacy over the beasts of the field could be seen the eventual dominion of the Jews over the world. Thus, unwittingly, the Babylonian Jews laid the foundation of an anti-Semitism which was henceforth to blot the pages of human history.

However, many authorities would not agree with him on the fertility cult conception behind either circumcision or the Sabbath.

Much Jewish activity has been directed toward changing Christian beliefs and attitudes which were thought to be the cause of anti-Jewish hostility. Such hostility has existed before and apart from Christianity. Professor Allegro demonstrates anti-Jewishness as a survival response by non-Jews to the Jewish mystique itself.

ROBERT JOHN.

SIR OLIVER LODGE: PSYCHICAL RESEARCHER AND SCIENTIST

By W. P. Jolly. Constable, London, 1974. Pp 255, 9 illustrations. Price £3.95.

Sir Oliver Lodge, F.R.S., President of the Royal Society, and the British Association, with over a dozen honorary degrees, is a good example of heredity over environment. His father was the 23rd of 25 children who left school at 14 and, although apprenticed to an elder brother who was a doctor, left that calling to become a potter. Oliver Lodge at 14 also left school to follow his father's career. Both his grandfathers had been headmasters, and among his many uncles were teachers, ministers of religion and businessmen.

Lodge looked back with horror at the cruelties he and other boys perpetrated on