

# Association News

## Reports on the Annual Meeting

### Annual Meeting in New Orleans Well Attended

A total of 2,842 people attended APSA's annual meeting in New Orleans, August 29-September 1, despite a hurricane threat and a few cancelled airplane flights. This figure compares well with the 1983 meeting in Chicago and is more than 500 above the 1973 New Orleans meeting, as shown in Table 1.

Joseph Cooper of Rice University chaired the Program Committee for the 1985 conference which was responsible for organizing 267 of the over 450 panels at the meeting. APSA's nine Organized Sections assembled 69 panels, an increase

**TABLE 1**  
**Annual Meeting Registration, 1967-85\***

1967	2473 (Chicago)
1968	3723 (Washington, D.C.)
1969	4142 (New York)
1970	2397 (Los Angeles)
1971	2732 (Chicago)
1972	3380 (Washington, D.C.)
1973	2312 (New Orleans)
1974	2773 (Chicago)
1975	2478 (San Francisco)
1976	2295 (Chicago)
1977	2624 (Washington, D.C.)
1978	2373 (New York)
1979	2687 (Washington, D.C.)
1980	2745 (Washington, D.C.)
1981	2887 (New York)
1982	2205 (Denver)
1983	2859 (Chicago)
1984	3391 (Washington, D.C.)
1985	2842 (New Orleans)

\*1972-85 figures include exhibitors registered at the meeting, since their fee for booth rental includes the cost of their registration.

**TABLE 2**  
**1985 Annual Meeting**  
**APSA Organized Section Panels**

Section	Number of Panels
Conflict Processes	11
Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	9
Law, Courts and Judicial Process	4
Legislative Studies	6
Policy Studies	15
Political Organizations and Parties	2
Presidency Research	3
Public Administration	14
Representation and Electoral Systems	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>

over 1984 by one-third due to the growth in the number of Organized Sections since last year.

The average attendance at panels organized by the Program Committee was 20. The Sections with the highest average attendance were Electoral Behavior and Popular Control (whose average attendance was 31); Legislative Processes and Politics (30); Political Thought and Philosophy: Historical Approaches (27); the Practice of Political Science (27); and Political Executives and the Presidency (26).

Among the Organized Sections the groups with the highest average attendance was Political Organizations and Parties (28) which fielded only two panels; Law, Courts and Judicial Process (27); and Conflict Processes (23). The average attendance at Organized Section panels was 18. There was a negative correlation between the number of panels offered by an Organized Section

and the average attendance at that Section's panels.

**Best Attended Panels**

The best attended day-time panel at the convention was Political Knowledge for What? Two New Books on the State of the Discipline, with 116 people in attendance. The Roundtable on the Reagan Presidency was the next most popular with 93 in attendance, followed by the Presidential Election of 1984 with an audience of 76.

The fourth best-attended panel with 67 was the Roundtable on Area Studies and Theory Building, followed by the Roundtable on *In Search of France* (66) and the Roundtable on Congressional Committee Research to honor Richard F. Fenno, Jr. (65).

**Plenary Sessions**

The three plenary sessions, held on each of the three evenings of the conference, drew large audiences. At the first plenary session Program Chair Cooper presided as APSA's awards were presented to outstanding scholars, and Richard F. Fenno, Jr. delivered the Presidential Address, which will appear in an upcoming issue of the *American Political Science Review*. It was estimated that 375 people attended this session.

Fred I. Greenstein of Princeton University chaired the second plenary session on Reform of the American Political System with approximately 175 people in attendance. On the third evening I. M. Destler of the Institute for International Economics presided over a packed house (350 people) to hear Robert S. McNamara, James R. Schlesinger and Brent Scowcroft discuss the problems of and prospects for arms control.

*Editor's Note: Full reports of the plenary sessions, Reform of the American Political System and Arms Control: Problems and Prospects, appear below.* □

**Prospects for Arms Control**

**Carol Nechemias**

Pennsylvania State University,  
Capitol Campus

I. M. Destler, a Senior Fellow at the Institute of International Economics and moderator for the plenary session on "Arms Control: Problems and Prospects," described the panel participants as "doers and thinkers," individuals with high-level governmental experience who now are actively engaged in the enterprise of analyzing current arms control dilemmas. The speakers were indeed illustrious. They included Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and President of the World Bank from 1968-81; James R. Schlesinger, who has held such diverse positions as Chair of the Atomic Energy Commission (1971-73), Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (1973), Secretary of Defense (1973-75), and Secretary of the Department of Energy (1977-79); and Lt. General Brent Scowcroft (USAF, ret.), a former assistant to the President for national security affairs (1975-1977), member of the President's General Advisory Committee on Arms Control (1977-80), and, more recently, chair of a commission established by President Reagan on the MX issue.

All three panelists painted a gloomy picture of the prospects for arms control. Schlesinger argued that public expectations about what arms control can accomplish are exaggerated. In his view arms negotiations do not lead to cuts in defense expenditures, except in a marginal way, or eliminate the threat of nuclear devastation. Moreover, the public seems to believe that the United States alone can, if it wants, achieve progress in managing the arms race; but negotiations involve dialogue between two sovereign powers, the codification of decisions made by independent powers.

What, then, would successful arms talks entail? For Schlesinger, realistic goals consist of stabilizing the military balance between the two superpowers and in-