

become public knowledge in Cuba and would be interpreted there as an indication that we preferred Castro to Batista and were in fact seeking the latter's downfall.

All that is now history. The really important part of Batista's book is the detailed account, buttressed by abundant statistics, of the social and economic advances that were made in Cuba between 1933 and 1959, despite widespread corruption and other unfortunate circumstances. The figures show conclusively that except for these advances the Castro regime could never have endured economically for as long as it has.

ELLIS BRIGGS, a career officer, had served through seven ambassadorships and had been appointed to an eighth when he decided to retire and ruminate on his experiences. To anyone acquainted with the ways of the State Department and the Foreign Service his diplomatic memoirs, assembled under the title of *Farewell to Foggy Bottom*, will prove a delight; others will find them informative and highly amusing. Most of his observations are so pointed, so accurate, and expressed with so much wit as to provoke a succession of smiles or even of outright laughter.

There are, however, two matters on which I cannot find myself in agreement with Mr. Briggs. One is his sweeping generalization that all—or nearly all—political appointees are useless as diplomats. The other concerns his hopeful proposals for a solution to the Cuban problem. I am convinced that neither the Cubans nor any other people can rise successfully against Communist tyranny by pitting flesh and blood against tanks, gas, and machine guns. I hold, therefore, that the only solution is to drive the Communists out of Cuba into the sea. It is my opinion that, despite the vast arming of the island by the Russians, this still can be done by an invasion by Cuban forces supported by other Latin American contingents, but with the real weight of the invasion falling on the United States Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

Reviewed by SPRUILLE BRADEN

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## *Frémont to Goldwater*

***The Republican Party, 1854-1964***, by George H. Mayer. New York: Oxford University Press, 1964. 563 pp. \$9.75.

DESPITE THE abundant literature on political parties in the United States, comparatively little has been

written about their particular histories. Both the Democratic and Republican parties are venerable institutions; the Democrats can trace their history directly to Jackson and the Republicans to the events of the mid 1850's. Both have been closely associated with some of the most important developments in American history over the last 100-odd years. And it would seem they deserve to have their history written as other important and useful institutions in American history have. But there are few books dealing with the history of either of the two major parties. For many years Francis Curtis' *The Republican Party, 1854-1904* (1904) and W. S. Myers' *History of the Republican Party* (1928) served as standard surveys of the Republican party until they were largely replaced by Malcolm Moos' *The Republicans* (1956). Thus Professor George H. Mayer's book is a welcome and needed addition to the literature on the Republican party and brings the story of this party down to the present and up to date.

Professor Mayer of the History Department at Purdue University has written an excellent survey of the Republican party from its origins to the present time. He stresses political events, elections, and legislative battles and covers almost everything in the first 100 years of the Republican party, so in the end we know a great deal about what happened to the party and where it stood on different issues at different stages in its history. Though Mayer's book does not lack judgments and interpretations, it is mainly a detailed survey rather than an interpretative account of the long history of this party, and as such it is filled with useful information for scholars and general readers alike. For example, Mayer covers every presidential and congressional election since the Republican party emerged on the national scene in 1856. These election statistics and the position the Republicans took on issues in these campaigns will be of great use to anyone interested in political history.

Mayer has written a good book—scholarly, clear, and impartial. It is based on a variety of sources—papers of leading politicians, standard monographs and biographies, and dozens of unpublished Ph.D. dissertations—that make it sound and useful history. In the long list of Republican leaders, Mayer has few heroes. He says Lincoln, for example, "used executive patronage shamelessly," and wanted to "block legislation aimed at immediate racial equality." Mayer even feels the term "strong President" does not really describe Lincoln. For though Lincoln "vigorously expanded executive power in all areas related to the war, he showed little interest in other matters. There was nothing that could properly be

called a Presidential program. . . . he allowed the initiative in such matters to rest with Congress. . . . it seems probable that Lincoln would have done little to strengthen the Presidency in the absence of a crisis." Equally interesting and enlightening are Mayer's discussion of the Republican Old Guard during the Progressive Era, his treatment of Alf M. Landon's place in the Republican Party (Landon allowed Mayer to quote from his papers), and his sketch of Calvin Coolidge. Mayer's excellent account should remain the standard one of the Republican party for many years.

Reviewed by VINCENT P. DE SANTIS