

The Political Science Oral History Project and Pi Sigma Alpha

In 1978, The American Political Science Association established a project to collect oral history interviews from distinguished political scientists. The Political Science Oral History Project is designed to record the intellectual history of our discipline along with the public and professional accomplishments of its practitioners. For information on the project and a schedule of oral history interviews, contact the Association or consult *PS*, Summer 1980, p. 326.

The Oral History Project has been supported by grants from Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, whose objectives and officers are recorded, as follows:

Objectives of Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha is the national political science honor society. Its chapters are established in colleges and universities of accredited and recognized standing which offer at least the prescribed minimum of work in political science.

Chapters receive into membership students of government, political science, public administration, and international relations, irrespective of their membership in other honor societies or social organizations, when such students attain high standards of scholarship and academic distinction both in political science and in the sum total of their academic work. Faculty members teaching government, political science, public administration, or international relations in institutions with chapters are also eligible for membership. A limited number of honorary memberships, based on attainments or governmental life. Student membership in the Society is conferred on no basis of selection other than that of scholastic achievement. Both men and women are eligible for membership. Reception into the Society is consummated with an appro-

priate ceremony and with a membership certificate.

It is the aim of Pi Sigma Alpha to be much more than a group of chapters devoted solely to the election of honor students into membership. Each chapter is encouraged to be a working organization throughout the academic year, functioning as an integral part of the political science department in the promotion of worthwhile extracurricular activities related to public affairs. Experience on the various campuses has demonstrated the value of such an organization for the promotion of student interest in political science.

The value of the Society has resulted in its steady growth since its founding in 1920. Continued growth in number of members and number of chapters indicates that it is fulfilling the aims for which it was founded. Pi Sigma Alpha promises to continue to serve the objectives stated in its constitution — "to stimulate productive scholarship and intelligent interest in the subject of government."

Officers of Pi Sigma Alpha

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Washington, D.C. 20016

The *Newsletter* of Pi Sigma Alpha is published four times a year.

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Pi Sigma Alpha is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies.

Individuals or Departments interested in Pi Sigma Alpha memberships and chapters should write to the National Director at the National Office address given above.

NEWS, for teachers of Political Science, is published quarterly and distributed free of charge to all APSA members and department chairpersons. Non-member faculty may subscribe for \$5 per year. The next issue of the NEWS will appear Spring 1981. All correspondence to the NEWS should be addressed to:

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To the Editor:

We write to alert NEWS readers to the "national" edition of the *New York Times*. This edition, an abbreviated version of the New York City edition, has been printed in Chicago since late last summer and is now the only edition of the *Times* available on the day of publication in most cities outside of the Northeast.

Weekdays and Sundays, approximately 15 percent of the news that appears in New York is omitted from the national edition. The bulk of the advertising is also gone. The result is a newspaper less than half the size of the New York "newspaper of record." The national edition costs 50 cents daily and \$2 Sundays, double the price of the New York edition.

The missing news is principally New York metropolitan and regional news, but cultural news is also reduced, and the feature sections, including "Science Times," are condensed. The fit between the two editions for national and international coverage is unpredictable: stories are sometimes shortened, although they are on occasion lengthened. However considered, the two newspapers are different. Readers of the late, great *Times* can be certain that with the national edition they pay more and receive a lesser paper than formerly.

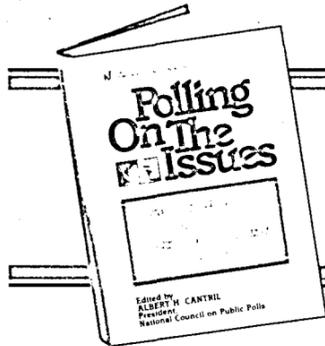
What does this mean to political scientists? It means, first, that the nation's most significant daily newspaper is no longer promptly available around the country in a uniform edition. With its national version, the *Times* has segregated those readers who get a first rank newspaper from those who cannot.

Second, teachers of local, state, and regional politics can no longer obtain New York news as conveniently or as inexpensively as before. Conversely, New Yorkers can no longer expect people elsewhere to know as much about New York as they once did. Third, instructors who have used the *Times* in class or recommended it to their students as a model of American journalism can no longer do that and mean today what they meant several months ago.

Finally, scholars and students outside of the Northeast can be sure they are not buying the "real" *Times* on the newsstand. And they can hardly expect their libraries to subscribe to both editions, the national version for day-of-publication news and the New York edition (by mail) for complete coverage keyed to the Times Index and available on microfilm. Readers and researchers alike will find the situation in their libraries both confusing and deplorable.

The upshot is that by publishing its national edition, the *Times* is performing a notable disservice to the American public and to those of us who are scholars and teachers of public affairs. We urge political scientists to encourage the *Times* to make its New York edition available on the day of publication to the entire country. We would be glad to hear from readers of the NEWS interested in further information on the *Time's* new edition. Jonathan F. Galloway
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