

Arguably the most divisive law-and-order event of the era was the tragedy at Kent State University, when national guard troops fired over sixty times into a peace-rally crowd, killing four persons and wounding nine. The incident occurred in May 1970, but Kent State was a culmination of 1960s frustration and anger with a president who promised to “Bring Us Together.” The major virtue of *Law and Order* is that it is a cohesive study of the politics-law-and-order nexus. Unfortunately Flamm’s analysis and interpretation is confined predominantly to the introduction and epilogue. An academic audience with a particular interest in the era’s social issues will likely find this book more useful than the general reader.

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*When Public Housing was Paradise: Building Community in Chicago.* Edited by J. S. Fuerst and D. Bradford Hunt. (Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 2005. Pp. xvi, 228. \$20.00.)

J. S. Fuerst spent ten years collecting and editing the seventy-nine interviews that comprise this superb oral history. The interviewees—a diverse group that includes public housing officials, tenants, and others who contributed to community building in the projects—chronicle the intriguing story of the first two decades of public housing in Chicago. These were the halcyon years for the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), when it implemented policies growing out of the actualization of Elizabeth Wood’s vision for public housing. CHA policies under Wood’s administration embodied the philosophy advocated by nineteenth- and early twentieth-century reformers, which held that government should play an active role in the social welfare of its citizens. This philosophy culminated in the programs of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal. Recognizing, however, the current trend away from that philosophy and back toward *laissez faire*, Fuerst used his chapter introductions and conclusions as commentaries on and evaluations of the changes in political thought that began gaining adherents during the Ronald Reagan presidency.

The editor grouped the interviews in seven chapters under the themes that he determined were responsible for the positive experiences of the residents and that led to the building of viable communities in the projects. Wood and her staff did not conceive of public housing as homes of last resort or as permanent housing. Rather, it was a step up from the overcrowded, inadequate tenements occupied by many lower-income Chicago residents. Through careful screening, Wood and her staff selected families, whether two-parent or single-parent households, that shared her dream of forming viable communities. Wood also selected staff

members who shared her dedication. Project managers lived among the tenants, provided guidance and assistance, saw that the housing was properly maintained, and enforced the rules.

Although the leitmotiv of almost all of the interviews is a paean to Elizabeth Wood, her vision, and her work, the former residents also realized that other forces contributed to the salutary results achieved under her administration. Education was a key force for those who advanced to leadership positions locally and nationally. Even those who failed to take advantage of the educational opportunities provided testified to the importance of the role of the schools. Other character-building forces—such as religion, sports, and music—promoted upward mobility and contributed to the quality of community life. Race and racism in Chicago, however, were the major barriers to the eventual realization of Wood's vision. She was uncompromising in her determination that public housing must be integrated. White opposition to integrated neighborhoods led to political control of housing policies and the forcing of Wood out of office. Ironically, residents used the term “paradise” to describe public housing during the administration of the political machine boss Mayor Edward Kelly. Kelly appointed Wood and protected the CHA from blatant political interference, but the CHA began its downward spiral during the administration of the so-called reforming mayor Martin Kennelly.

Fuerst's conclusion is a call for a rebirth of public housing. He acknowledges, however, that “[i]t may seem utopian to propose a rebirth of public housing at a time when many public housing projects are being demolished. . . . In Washington, the Clinton and Bush administrations have essentially ignored the widely acknowledged housing affordability crisis in the United States” (193).

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*One Nation Under Law: America's Early National Struggles to Separate Church and State.* By Mark Douglas McGarvie. (DeKalb, Ill.: Northern Illinois University Press, 2004. Pp. 256. \$38.00.)

Given the debate that is currently taking place in the United States over the role of religion in public life, this is a very timely book. At the outset, the author states clearly and forcefully that the Constitution speaks to the separation of church and state and that such language can be found in the contract clause. Moreover, he specifically argues the weakness of the belief that America was founded as a Christian nation. In fact, he refers to an “implicit constitutional mandate to separate church and state” (96). This mandate became apparent in the early

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