Comment on Fishkin's Review
(Vol. 74, March 1980, pp. 176-77)

TO THE EDITOR:

Having read with interest and profit David Schaefer's book on Rawls, Justice or Tyranny?, I was disappointed to see James Fishkin refer readers elsewhere in his recent review of that book. He charges Schaefer with "missing the point" of Rawls' "thought experiment" of the original position. As I read Schaefer, however, his point was that such a thought experiment was misconceived, for reasons he argued out at some length and in the context of a thorough comparison of Rawls' original position with the "state of nature" as developed by Hobbes and Locke. Schaefer understood perfectly well what Rawls was doing; he thought it was mistaken, and in so arguing gave a penetrating analysis of the issues involved. Fishkin seems to be like some students I know, who do not believe anyone "gets the point" of what they are saying unless he or she agrees with what they say.

Schaefer also supposedly misses the point that Rawls is neither simply a utilitarian nor simply an egalitarian. While Fishkin is correct about Rawls, nonetheless that certainly does not preclude what he thinks it precludes—that in some important respects, Rawls "accepts the Benthamite perspective," and that his position is heavily weighted towards equality, even though the "difference principle" might allow a good deal of inequality.

Fishkin's summary dismissal of Schaefer's book is unfortunate, not only because it is based on such inadequate grounds, but also because Schaefer's book is a most spirited and thoughtful attack on Rawls' position. I would reverse Fishkin's advice and refer all readers interested in Rawls to Schaefer's discussion.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Dina A. Zinnes, Charles E. Merriam Professor of Political Science, University of Illinois, has been chosen as the next managing editor of the American Political Science Review. She will assume her duties effective with the management of Volume 76 (1982). Manuscripts should be sent to the University of Pittsburgh until further notice since Volume 75 (1981) will be managed by the current editor.

A widely recognized scholar, Professor Zinnes has published several books and articles based upon her important work in quantitative analysis of major international issues. She was educated at two institutions with superb political science faculties—the University of Michigan for her B.A. and M.A. degrees; Stanford University for her Ph.D. For most of her professional career, she has been a member of the Department of Political Science at Indiana University (1964-1980), where she directed the work of many graduate students in international politics.

Dina Zinnes has also found time in her busy schedule for active participation in professional societies. She has served (or is serving) as treasurer and vice-president of the APSA, as president of the International Studies Association, as a member of the Council of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, and as president-elect of the Midwest Political Science Association. In addition to this full schedule of work, Professor Zinnes has given freely of her time in evaluating the work of her colleagues. She serves on the editorial boards for six major journals, including the APSR.

The APSA is fortunate to be able to call on the services of such an able and dedicated professional political scientist. The APSR will prosper under her leadership.

Richard L. Park of the University of Michigan passed away on September 8, 1980. He served on the Book Review Editorial Board. Richard Park's knowledge of scholarship and people in international and comparative politics was global. His special interest was South Asia, reflected in research, writing, and leadership in Asian studies. The profession has lost a distinguished colleague and the APSR a valued associate.

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