

ness gained in importance, and on that issue the two groups found themselves diametrically opposed. The monarchists took an anti-republican stance only with regard to internal French politics. When their beloved country was threatened from without, they parted company with the syndicalists, whose faith in international socialism committed them to advocate the avoidance of hostilities at almost any price. Historically, Left and Right have always been at each other's throats. The unique coalition of French monarchists and syndicalists seems to have been doomed from its inception.

Contemporary Affairs

**BREAKING RANKS: A
Political Memoir**
by Norman Podhoretz
Harper, 1979
375 pp. \$15

In *Making It* (1967), Norman Podhoretz, editor of *Commentary*, blew the whistle on the liberals' climb to success. "Ambition," he wrote in characteristically blunt fashion, "seems to be replacing erotic lust as the prime dirty little secret of the well-educated American soul." In *Breaking Ranks*, Podhoretz describes his personal political evolution from the early days of the Kennedy administration—when he joined the radical reaction against the stolid 1950s—to his current counter-revolution against the New Left. Podhoretz' disenchantment began in 1964. He believed that writers and academics of the Left were recklessly fomenting and exploiting campus anarchy. Their behavior opened to question their allegiance to democracy and their dedication to high intellectual and moral standards. Podhoretz argues that the radicalism of New Left intellectuals (especially Norman Mailer and Paul Goodman, but just about anyone writing for the *New York Review of Books*), among other things, helped to divide and defeat the Democratic Party in 1968 and 1972. Many liberals, shaken by Vietnam, mistook the New Left's scorn of American values "for a form of idealism," he contends. In fact, 1960s radicalism grew out of "an infection of self-hatred."