
**COUNTING OUR
BLESSINGS:
Reflections on the Future of
America**

by Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1980
348 pp. \$12.95

Ask a dozen political pundits to describe the senior Senator from New York and you will no doubt get a dozen conflicting impressions. These 14 articulate essays by the former Harvard political scientist and only man to serve in Cabinet or sub-Cabinet posts under four consecutive Presidents weave one argument: U.S. governmental institutions are resilient and can work well, if we rediscover the wisdom they embody. But Moynihan also comments on a panoply of abuses. He charges that political empire-builders obey the Iron Law of Emulation: In 1962, for example, the White House created the Office of Science and Technology; nothing would do but for Congress to get its own Office of Technology Assessment (in 1974). The result: duplication, rivalry, and stalemate. Moynihan's most stinging barbs are reserved for Supreme Court Justices when they play at social science. His point: "Social science is basically concerned to predict future events, whereas the purpose of law is to order them." Finally, Moynihan assesses SALT. With each new agreement, he notes, the nuclear forces on both sides have increased. He asks, "Need we sign treaties to legitimate an arms race that neither side might be willing shamelessly to go forward with unilaterally?"

**THE DEFENSE
INDUSTRY**

by Jacques S. Gansler
MIT, 1980
346 pp. \$19.95

With only one customer, there is no free market at work in America's defense industries. Yet, since performance is ultimately more crucial than cost, fewer than 8 percent of military procurement contracts are decided "solely on the basis of price competition." So argues Gansler, vice president of Washington's Analytic Sciences Corporation. Supporting between one-fourth and one-third of all U.S. scientists and engineers, the Defense Department should be at the forefront of technological progress. But Pentagon planners have increasingly shifted research-and-development funding from small, inventor-led companies to large corporations that "emphasize risk minimization, and thus tend not