

**POLITICAL AND LEGAL
ADVENTURERS**

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FROM MARX TO MOYNIHAN

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Dedication

To Annie and the memory of Virginia.

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FOREWORD

This is a book of biographical essays on lawyers and others intertwined with law, public policy and politics.

Through the years each of the authors has come to the conclusion – after much reading in many diverse fields—that biographies are consistently the best reading. (Actually the very best reading is very good fiction, but how many even good novels are published these days?) Included in the category of biographies for both of us are collections of what are often termed “potted biographies” —collections of relatively brief essays on persons of special interest. One can cite highly readable collections from writers such as A.L. Rowse, C.P. Snow, Joseph Epstein, Geoffrey Ward, James Lord and Edward Shils.

Such collections of essays may especially appeal to many readers who at least initially may be daunted by full-scale biographies and may thereby welcome shorter works that convey much of the essence and flavor of prominent personalities and their careers. And yet such readers also may be induced by those shorter essays to pursue further interest inspired by them.

People covered by us include: William Beveridge (founder of the welfare state); Tommy Corcoran & Ben Cohen (key aides to FDR); Dwight Eisenhower, Felix Frankfurter; Averell Harriman; Belle Moskowitz (key aide to Al Smith); Pat Moynihan; Kenny O’Donnell (key aide to JFK); Bayard Rustin (key aide to Martin Luther King); Adlai Stevenson; Joe Tumulty (key aide to Woodrow Wilson); the Wright Brothers; and even Truman Capote, along with others.

Our own professional specialities are law and public policy, stemming in some degree from our post-graduate degrees—one in law and the other in public administration. And so in the following essays we focus on both lawyers and others whose lives have influenced or been influenced by law and/or public affairs. But let’s be frank about it; our purpose in writing these essays and then in collecting them in book form is not to present any overarching theory about, say, law, politics or government, nor to maintain necessarily any consistent theme or critical stance in appraising those we have written about. It is rather to impart to the general reader, as Rowse, Snow and our other prede-

cessors have done, at least some of the enormous stimulation and joy derived from reading and writing about some fascinating figures in the public arena. We hope thereby to evoke absorbing and widely varying individuals (mostly men, we admit up front) battling in the forums of either law, politics or government, or often all three. Stanley Katz, president emeritus of the American Council of Learned Societies, after reading our pieces has crisply summarized what we aim at:

These essays ... not only make interesting and well-founded points about historical material. More important they reflect the sort of general culture which in these days, alas, is all too seldom brought to bear on scholarship. We have become so narrowly professional that I sometimes despair of carrying on a communication across disciplinary lines. This is something which the O'Connells clearly understand how to do.

We can only hope Stanley Katz is right about our efforts. You decide.

Jeffrey O'Connell
Thomas E. O'Connell

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