Response to Kay Lehman Schlozman

Professor Schlozman feels that unless one also assesses three long memos that accompanied the report by the APSA's Task Force on Inequality and American Democracy, one should refrain from commenting. She accuses me in my response to the Task Force reports (Bennett 2006) of "not bother[ing] to read the full materials on which . . . [I comment]" (Schlozman 2006, 55). Schlozman indicates she'd be "interested in . . . [my] reactions to the whole report instead of an abbreviated version" (55). Since she asks, here goes.

There is a much longer version of my reactions to the report *and* "Inequalities of Political Voice" on my computer's hard-drive. It characterizes the report and the 88-page memo "Inequalities of Political Voice" (Schlozman, Page, Verba, and Fiorina 2004; also available in a shorter version [Schlozman, Page, Verba, and Fiorina 2005]) as illustrative of many political scientists' left-wing tilt (Klein and Stern 2004–2005; Klein and Western 2004–2005; Rothman, Lichter, and Nevitte 2005).

The ideological gap between a left-leaning academe and the American public may have become an unbridgeable gulf. Although different terminology vexes comparisons, UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute found that American faculty in 2004–2005 seemed to be well to the left of the public (cf. Lindholm, Szelényi, Hurtado, and Korn 2005 with the Pew Research Center 2005).

In and of themselves, left- or right-wing tendencies are not worrisome. When narrow ideologies drive analyses of complex trends *to the exclusion of alternative points of view*, however, one is entitled to ask whether scholarship reflects objective observation, *or has become something else entirely*. Even if the motivation for creation of the Task Force (and related materials) was "to enhance the public relevance of political science" (APSA Task Force 2004, 1), ideologically driven research risks being irrelevant.

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Response to Stephen Earl Bennett

We are gratified that Prof. Bennett has now read the full Task Force on Inequality and American Democracy report that he critiqued in the January 2006 issue of *PS*, but we find his response puzzling. He characterizes our report as "illustrative of many political scientists' left-wing tilt" and buttresses his assertion, not by analyzing the report itself, but by referring to studies of the political leanings of college faculty. Clearly, the test of our heavily annotated work—the bottom line of which is that "there are no easy conclusions when it comes to changing inequality of political voice" (APSA Task Force 2004, 35)—is whether we have been faithful to the relevant scholarly research. Since Bennett provides no evidence to the contrary, we leave it to the reader to decide who is driven by ideological, rather than scholarly, concern.

Morris Fiorina
Lawrence Jacobs
Benjamin Page
Kay Schlozman
Theda Skocpol
Sidney Verba

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