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Toward a Mathematics of Politics. by Gordon Tullock

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*Toward a Mathematics of Politics.* By GORDON TULLOCK. (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1967. Pp. vii, 176. \$7.95!)

This book represents a search for a "unified theory" of politics—in short, as the author himself puts it, a search for the Holy Grail. On that, one can only say that the knight fell into the moat on his way out of the castle—a common enough fate, to be sure. Fortunately there are always other tasks for knights: maidens to be saved, dragons to be killed, and so on. The author has touched upon some of these other tasks in a brilliant, provocative way. He has clearly earned his knightly honors.

Although a search for a unified theory, the book itself is not unified; the tasks chosen are not crucial to such theory and are, perhaps, only charming tangents. The author is an economist and he bases his analyses on preference theory. (The author along with James M. Buchanan followed similar patterns in *The Calculus of Consent* in 1962.) There is no doubt that much of what he does here (in the early pages of the book, particularly) is interesting but hardly, I think, very important. My own feeling is that unified; the tasks chosen are not crucial to such theory and are, product of preference analyses. This of course can be no argument against the author's efforts. In any event he has built as strong a case as one can build with this line of reasoning. That it does not convince is not his fault.

If the book had ended with Chapter VI (the first 100 pages) it would have been a good effort, worth publishing, reviewing, and reading. But the real gems of this work come last. Chapters seven, on "political ignorance," eight, on "the politics of persuasion," and nine, on "the economics of lying," are enormously interesting and valuable, and make the book worth every dollar of its price. I can only end this review by saying that every political scientist worth his salt will be worth a little more after having read this book.

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*Political Science and Ideology.* By WILLIAM E. CONNOLLY. (New York: Atherton Press, 1967. Pp. xi, 179. \$5.95.)

When circumstances force decision, and adequate explanations are lacking, decision-makers must use assumptions of unknown or