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Patterson: PRESIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. THE UNWRITTEN CONSTITUTION

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PRESIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. THE UNWRITTEN CONSTITUTION. By *C. Perry Patterson*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press. 1947. Pp. xi, 280. \$3.75.

Mr. Patterson is Professor of Government at the University of Texas, where he has been teaching since 1919. He has published several books on national and local government, including "The Administration of Justice in Great Britain," and "The Supreme Court and the Constitution." His thesis here is that the party system, the "unwritten Constitution," has changed our

constitutional and limited democracy into a political and unlimited democracy, into a government of men and not of laws under the almost exclusive control of the President, who functions as a political rather than a constitutional executive practically without constitutional limitations. His solution to the problem is the establishment of a modified form of responsible "cabinet government," making the party system accountable to the people through their representatives in Congress. The study is, to say the least, challenging and provocative, whatever opinion the reader may entertain as to the validity of either its premises or its conclusion. The solution is thoroughly worked out and based on an intimate and practical knowledge of the functioning of both houses of Congress in their relationship to the President. A certain repetitiousness and overlapping of chapters does not detract appreciably from the value of the work as a careful analysis of the economic and political forces which have created what the author deems a virtual dictatorship, and as a constructive attempt to restore a truly representative government.