

**"GOVERNMENT BY LOGIC". REVIEW OF: A MATHEMATICAL  
APPROACH TO PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION: DUNCAN  
BLACK ON LEWIS CARROLL**

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by

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The editors of this book are responsible for the preservation of Duncan Black's (1908 – 1991) papers now at the University of Glasgow. Black, an economist with a strong interest in political science best known for his classic book, *The Theory of Committees and Elections* (1958), left an immense store of documents, books and papers, including chapter plans and versions of chapters for a book on Lewis Carroll's theory of proportional representation (PR). The book under review is the completion of this project which occupied the final thirty years of Black's life.

The title of the book, however, is misleading. Much more than PR is covered; in particular, Black establishes the broad connections between logic and voting theory (apportionment and PR being one piece; majority rule or social choice the other), and evaluates Carroll's contributions to this embryonic school of politics.

Voting theory is part of collective rational decision-making involving the relationships between the preferences of people and the resolution of those preferences as a group choice. The basic question addressed: what procedures utilizing those preferences yield the fairest outcomes as collective actions? depends on the notion of a social choice function, a rule that uses