workshops, that we need to focus our regular meetings more tightly, too, so there's some feedback that might lead to deeper changes. At

However, there's some strong feeling, arising volunteers, we can still have our regular chapter day night.

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ingcentive in these days of financial stringency:

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(continued from p. 4)

Cheap lunches and free housing are another incentive in these days of financial stringency: people only have to fork out for travel and for a good dinner with new and old friends on Satur­

day night.

And, because these workshops are strictly for volunteers, we can still have our regular chapter and local meetings run in more traditional ways. However, there's some strong feeling, arising from the coherence and productivity of the workshops, that we need to focus our regular meetings more tightly, too, so there's some feedback that might lead to deeper changes. At least it's undeniable that the participants come away with an enriched understanding of a particular strategy for doing American Studies that they may or may not wish to incorporate into their own scholarly experience.

A VARIANT PATTERN with which MASA has been successful, first at a number of sessions of the first national American Studies Associa­
tion meeting in Kansas City in 1967, and subsequently at several of MASA's own regional conventions, works as follows: a problem area is announced which makes clear that contributors

may or may not wish to incorporate into their own scholarly experience.

Francis Heller reports on THE DILEMMAS OF PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP: Of Caretakers and Kings. By Frank Kessler, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1982. $11.95, paper. Textbooks do not often make good reading but Frank Kessler has written one that is both constructive and enjoyable. He uses anecdotal material cheerfully and skill­

fully, and he does not hesitate to use a colloquial phrase where it fits. Kessler's approach reflects the pendulum swing that has characterized the literature on the presidency in the last two decades. But he ends on an optimistic note: our system may, after the extremes of Vietnam and Watergate, be "returning to the model that the founding fathers envisioned"—a president who would lead must also be truly accountable. Completed in January 1982, this book has the advantage that it can include pertinent aspects of the presidency of Ronald Reagan. Hurried pro­
duction has, however, resulted in proofreading and other errors that mar what would otherwise have to be called one of the liveliest recent books on the American presidency.

Marshall Tymm has edited THE COL­
LECTED ESSAYS AND PROSE SKETCHES
OF THOMAS COLE (St. Paul, Minnesota: The John Colet Press. 1980. $13.50 by subscrip­
tion). It contains published essays and letters, selections from unpublished material, and "Emma Moreton, A West Indian Tale." Ken La Budde, formerly of our Editorial Board, did a study years ago of Cole's ideas; in these pieces Cole reveals his intellectual and aesthetic roots, so it's very good to have them available.

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