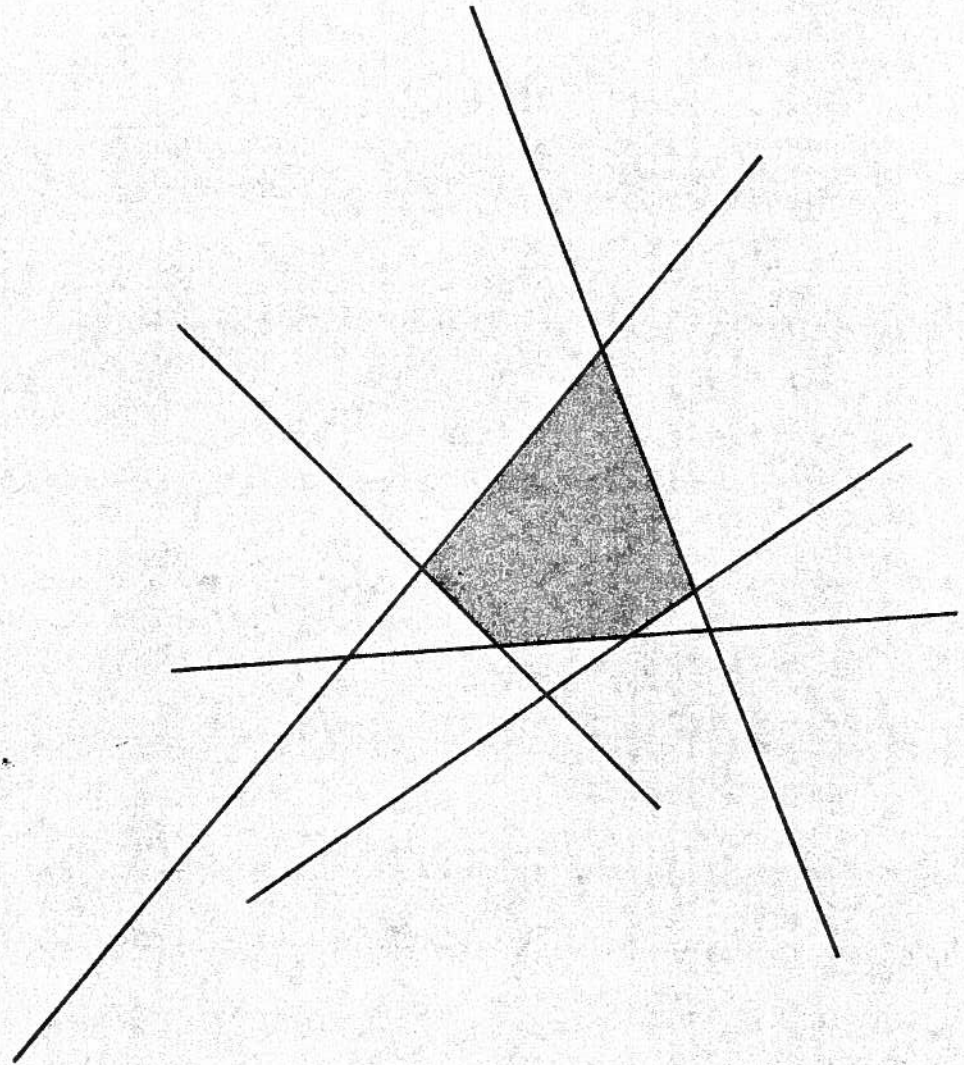


RATIONAL APPROACH TO "DIRTY POLITICS"

by
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ABSTRACT

As it happens in politics, there are times in which the way a decision is reached is more significant than the decision itself. Such was the case, for example, in the last Democratic Convention (Miami, 1972). In a sequence of several votes one block of delegates desired that the number of votes cast for the winning side (either "yes" or "no") would fall within specified limits, while another block of delegates tried to insure the opposite. It should be emphasized that those objectives of the two blocks were far more important to them than the fate of the issues themselves.

In this paper we analyze and generalize this case under different conditions. Specifically, it is shown that despite the apparent complexity of the decision involved, one can compute easily the optimal strategies for both sides. Moreover we show that if the two blocks are well defined and controlled, the outcome of the vote can be predicted accurately and the voting mechanism can be significantly simplified.