## **Punch Cards**

(For Edwin Black)

Takes a mess
of punches,
but such strange tabulations
move us
from theory to practice.

The holes
count off
each one
--the power of negative capability
grows with the numbers
inscribed on the card
--just the size of a dollar—
guaranteeing
our nation's "Doctor"
the tools
to confirm his diagnosis.

How better for us to play both ends against the middle and live to pick up the pieces?

Let us pay tribute to this dream of reason and sing, as they did once, a "Silent Night," --recalling how our wondrous machine made them all light up their empty Hanukah rows of big blue candles.