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Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATORY LAW. By Everett C. McKeage. New York: Vantage Press, 1956. Pp. 107. \$5.00.

This book by Everett McKeage is certainly a welcome addition to a field about which all too little is known and written. Mr. McKeage is reputed to be one of the best qualified men in his particular field and speaks with great authority on this subject.

Unfortunately this book's fine content is distractingly offset by its weakness in form. It consists of seven articles on public utility regulatory law and gives emphasis to particular points which are, or should be, of great interest to anyone familiar with the field. It appears, however, that these articles come from varied and diverse sources—three from speeches given by the author, three from articles he has written for publication, and one from the text of a law brief written by him. In numerous instances we are faced with the annoying fact that large passages of textual material are repeated verbatim in several places in the different articles. While a pearl of wisdom should be worth repeating as often as the occasion may call for it, where this is done within the confines of so short a book it becomes genuinely distracting and materially inhibits the true value and purpose for which such a book is written. There can be no doubt that such fault lies in the editing rather than in the writing, but regardless of where it does lie, it distracts from an otherwise fine piece of work.

THE PRESIDENCY TODAY. By Edward S. Corwin and Louis W. Koenig. New York: New York University Press, 1956. \$3.00.

Edward Corwin and Louis Koenig have apparently added little to American legal literature; little, that is, not dealt with in splendid fashion by Professor Corwin in his *The President, Office and Powers*.

CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE UNITED STATES. By Robert E. Cushman. New York: Cornell University Press, 1956. \$2.85.

In *Civil Liberties in the United States* Professor Cushman has, in very competent fashion, presented "a bird's-eye view of the entire field of civil liberties since the close of World War II." The reviewer found that Professor Cushman accomplished his three stated objectives for his book: "first, to indicate the status of each civil liberty at the close of World War

II; second, to summarize the principal developments . . . during the last decade; and third, to indicate . . . what the current . . . problems appear to be. . . ."

The reviewer believes that the Professor's work should be helpful to laymen or lawyers who wish to survey, in quick fashion, the present state of American "civil liberties." The only deficiency the reviewer thinks should be mentioned is really a concern of emphasis; that is to say, the book attempts to deal with such a large legal area that no one facet of "civil liberties" is written about very exhaustively (for example, the federal decisions drastically limiting the apparent effects of the federal criminal civil rights statutes are not explained).

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE FEDERAL LOYALTY-SECURITY PROGRAM. Report sponsored by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. New York: Dodd, Meade & Company, 1956. \$5.00.

The reviewer thoroughly enjoyed this Fund for the Republic and Association of the Bar of the City of New York sponsored report on the present status of the socially troubled problem area — the Federal Loyalty-Security Program. The report is a comprehensive summary of the statutes and regulations upon which the program is based, as well as a survey of the practical operation thereof and a moderate evaluation of the desirability of continuance of certain activities in the Program.

Every American citizen should read this report. In essence it details what is happening, or what legally *could* happen, under the Eisenhower Loyalty-Security Program to the several millions of the employees of the United States.

LEGAL CONTROL OF THE PRESS, 3rd Ed. by Frank Thayer. New York: The Foundation Press, Inc., 1956. \$6.50.

Legal Control of the Press is, of course, the standard text on the press and law. Professor Thayer's third edition merely brings this work up to date by the addition of several new sections and the inevitable recent cases, etc.

This book is required reading for those interested in the relationship of law to the press; the following chapters indicate the comprehensiveness of Professor Thayer's work: Historical Background; Freedom of the Press;

Right of the Press; Libel; Libel to Property; Criminal Responsibility; Trial of the Libel Issue; Justification and Retraction; Privilege; Fair Comment; Privacy; Contempt; Copyright; Regulation of Advertising.

In effect, this book is a "hornbook" on press law, written in a style which will be interesting and informative to laymen, lawyers and members of the "working press."