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NOTES OF A DISTRICT JUDGE. By Claude McColloch. Portland, Oregon: Privately Printed, 1948.

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NOTES OF A DISTRICT JUDGE. By Claude McColloch. Portland, Oregon: Privately Printed, 1948. Pp. 51.

As its title implies, this brochure brings to the reader a collective group of diverse observations and thoughts of its author on a variety of legal subjects. Though these "notes" are not unified in any distinct pattern, but are rather random statements, they, as a whole, represent a well-rounded synopsis of juristic intellect as promulgated by a district judge, whose point of view is not too dissimilar from that of the judges of our appellate courts.

His compact book is prefaced by a quotation from Winston Churchill, "Against tyranny everywhere." And, after a brief perusal of the first few pages, there can be no doubt in the reader's mind as to why this particular quotation was chosen, nor to whom it is directed. In undertaking a defense of district judges, the author persistently and, perhaps from his side of the question, understandably directs his counter-attack against the attorneys representing government agencies in the courts, particularly the now defunct Office of Price Administration, in a conflict which has its foundation in the wide divergence between the court's administration of justice and the agency's enforcement of policy. His task is to show that the courts of the country were being forced to hear needless and groundless litigation because the OPA lawyers pushed their authority to extreme constitutional limits on every possible occasion, and he laments that "there was no Brandeis to hold the OPA in check." Especially resentful is he of those agency lawyers who feel it their particular calling, when the tide turns against them, to mandamus the judge as a check and balance type of judicial vengeance.

The law professors also come in for their share of the judge's critical remarks. Perhaps this is so because he remembers professors and recent graduates of the law schools at that time as the draftsmen who conceived the original Price Control Act of 1942. He feels they not only were strong proponents of the administrative process, but that actually they were "court-haters." This remark is directed to the fact that in the original conception of this Act there was no provision for recourse to the courts, but to save the Act from Constitutional attack it was altered so as to provide for the Emergency Court of Appeals. To the professor, the honorable judge presents these admonitions—"Attention some professors, there is a great deal more to the law than being clever." And, referring to a book written by Judge Robert Wilkin, he asserts, "A law-schooler jumped all over him in a review. It's *lese majeste* for a judge to enter the professorial field—but professors as judges, that's another matter."

Sprinkled throughout the fifty-one easy reading pages of the judge's effort are myriads of apt quotations, whose wit and wisdom show a profound jurisprudential outlook. Some of these samplings must be listed to be ap-

preciated: "Justice made difficult is justice denied." "Genius is never entirely safe in government." "A district judge must be able to show powder burns if he expects to be upheld in a contempt proceeding." References are also made to assertions of other judges which are well correlated to the subject matter presented by the author.

Though there is no continuity in the presentation of the various subjects throughout the pages, each item ably displays a well thought-out foundation as a basis for a straight-to-the-point delivery to the designated area of the judicial field that the judge directs it. A number of the points evolved in such a style are sufficiently provocative as to merit further argumentative elaboration, but Judge McCulloch prefers to leave the thought dangling, so to speak, in mid-air. But, rather than finding this tantamount to a shortcoming of the book, it seems that it perhaps consummates the specific objective that the writer seeks to attain—that is, to leave food for thought in the mind of the reader, so as to arouse an interest that will develop from a recognition of a controversial issue to a gnawing realization that it is such a problem that can be solved only by a thorough knowledge of both sides of the question.

With the hope that it may not seem too naïve to state that the terminal point of the book is "End of Part I," this reviewer is left with a desire that his reading between-the-lines will become a pleasant reality when the honorable Judge McCulloch sees fit, in the near future, to supplement his "notes" of this publication with his "Beginning of Part II."

EARL BARBER

MIAMI, FLORIDA

THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX, A GUIDE TO THE LAW. By Joyce Stanley and Richard Kilcullen. New York: The Tax Club Press, 1948. Pp. 324. \$6.00.

So much material is already available that another book on The Federal Income Tax must adequately fill some specified need if it is to be more than merely a vehicle for conveying the authors' names into print. These authors have begun their Introduction by this justification:

It has been written to make income tax law easier to understand. It has been written primarily for practicing lawyers who do not specialize in tax law, for law students, for accountants working in the tax field and, in general, for all people who in their business or profession need more than a casual knowledge of income tax law.

Incidentally, there may be those who would not agree that a book which admittedly is not for lawyers who do specialize in tax law would be adequate for accountants working in the tax field. But, in reviewing any book it should be judged with reference to its stated purposes and objectives, so we will bear