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BOOK NOTED

The Criminal Law Revolution and Its Aftermath: 1960-1971. By the Editors of The Bureau of National Affairs Criminal Law Reporter. Washington, D.C.: BNA Books, 1972. Pp. 356. $10.00. In the greatest surge of judicial activism since the days of John Marshall, the United States Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren virtually recast our criminal law and procedure. Commencing with Mapp v. Ohio, 367 U.S. 643 (1961) the Warren Court in nine terms extended substantially all of the fourth, fifth and sixth amendment guarantees to state criminal proceedings through the conduit of the 14th amendment. So dramatic was the impact of the Warren Court upon this area that we find it discussed by BNA in terms of “revolution.” Now in its third edition, this term-by-term, case-by-case review of decisions of the Supreme Court in the area of criminal law has been expanded to include the first two years of the Burger Court in addition to the last 9 years of the Warren Court.

The editors of the Criminal Law Reporter provide reviews of over 300 cases in this work while keeping them in context, both by time and subject. Included in these concise reviews which range from a single paragraph to two full pages are earlier cases overruled or distinguished and the views of dissenting Justices. Also included is a summary introduction which places the Warren and Burger Courts in perspective and acquaints the reader with the authors’ scheme of classification for the major decisions.

The book’s principle value lies in its completeness, conciseness, and novel organization. This quick-reference commentary should prove extremely useful to law practitioners, law students, and law enforcement officers concerned with the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions upon the criminal law.