Books Noted

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BOOKS NOTED

THE ARBITRATOR, THE NLRB, AND THE COURTS. Edited by Dallas L. Jones. Washington, D.C.: BNA Incorporated. 1967. Pp. xi, 423. $10.00. This work is a composite of the proceedings of the 20th annual meeting of the National Academy of Arbitrators held in San Francisco, California in February 1967. A highly controversial question was explored in depth at that meeting, namely: to what extent should an arbitrator concern himself with federal and State laws and NLRB and court decisions pertaining to the subject matter of the dispute before him? One speaker was of the opinion that if it is impossible to render an award consistent with both the agreement and public policy, the arbitrator should respect the agreement and ignore the law. This view was premised on the argument that the arbitrator is bound by the agreement — the source of his authority — and it is up to the courts or other official tribunals to determine whether the agreement contravenes the law. Other speakers disagreed with the above approach and concluded that arbitrators should render decisions based on both the contract language and the law. Other papers presented at the meeting covered a wide range of topics and are also contained in this work.

HONESTY AND COMPETITION. By George J. Alexander. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. 1967. Pp. xv, 315. $10.00. The author of this work examines the Federal Trade Commission’s interdiction of deception in advertising and studies the actions of the Commission from two different perspectives: the avoidance of consumer deception and the enhancement of competition. The purpose of the work is to elucidate the interrelationship between one of the goals of antitrust — the maintenance of a competitive economy — and one of the goals of the suppression of commercial falsity — the prevention of consumer confusion concerning basic facts about the sale of goods. The author analyzes the decisions of the FTC and finds that the Commission, with the best of intentions and with zealous opposition to fraud, has often overlooked the complex interrelationships between competition and consumer deception. In bringing the major responsibilities of the FTC into greater harmony, the Commission ought not, in the author’s view, suppress information unless strong policy reasons independent of possible consumer deception so demand. The book suggests that false advertising policy might be restructured to meet the double demands of honesty and competition.

THE LAWYERS. By Martin Mayer. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, Incorporated. 1967. Pp. xvii, 586. $8.95. Written by the author of The Schools, Madison Avenue, U.S.A., and Wall Street, The Lawyers presents a fascinating and comprehensive picture of the American lawyer and the medium in which he works. For the layman, The Lawyers provides a candid and incisive study of the entire legal spectrum, from the individual, smalltown practitioner to the specialist in the giant law firm. For the lawyer himself, the book offers a glimpse into areas seldom seen or explored, of which fee and salary determining policies and law firm hiring practices are only a few. This book can be enjoyed by any reader, but a lawyer may well find the experience somewhat disconcerting — something akin to a self-analysis session in which the reader sees himself and his profession under a microscope, and is surprised to find that he does not like all of what he sees.
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