Books Noted

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BOOKS NOTED

AN AFFAIR WITH FREEDOM. Edited by Stephen J. Friedman. New York: Atheneum. 1967. Pp. xv, 384. $10.00. Stephen Friedman, who served as law clerk to Mr. Justice Brennan during the 1963-1964 Term of the United States Supreme Court, compiled this book with the view that a Supreme Court Justice is better understood by what he says than by what others say about him. Working under this premise, Mr. Friedman presents a selective collection of the opinions and speeches of Mr. Justice Brennan drawn from his first decade as a Supreme Court Justice. The work points out that during his service on the Court, Justice Brennan has written an extraordinary number of landmark opinions affecting the lives of the American people. His opinions cover such inflammatory matters as obscenity, freedom of speech and association, the school-prayer cases, and civil rights. While not every area of constitutional development is considered in this book, selective opinions and speeches have been organized into chapters dealing with specific constitutional problems — especially problems arising under the Bill of Rights. In addition, the editor prefaces each chapter with an introduction designed to give the reader enough historical and legal background to place the opinions in context.

PROPERTY TAXATION — USA. Edited by Richard W. Lindholm. Madison: Wisconsin University Press. 1967. Pp. xv, 315. $7.95. Property Taxation — USA presents the proceedings of a conference which took place at the University of Wisconsin in June 1965. At this conference some of the most knowledgeable persons on the subject of property taxation were brought together to make comments on the broad and narrow aspects of the subject. Approaching the subject in a number of ways and considering both practical and theoretical aspects of the topic, the contributors point out that many current administrative practices and legal provisions of the property tax are anachronistic and in need of reform. The publication is intended not only as a contribution to the effort to understand how the property tax really works, but also to consider what can be done in the United States to make it better, and what should be avoided by other nations interested in developing a strong property tax.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR JURY DUTY. By Godfrey Lehman. New York: Cowles Education Corporation. 1968. Pp. xvii, 131. $4.95. Written for the layman, this book is designed to focus public attention on the key role that the ordinary citizen plays when serving as a juror. Its purpose is not to evaluate the jury system but to take full cognizance of the fact of the jury. The author, writing from the perspective of an actual serving juror, reveals many of the obstacles that prevent most people from embracing jury duty with anything but distaste. For example, the author describes the discourteous treatment the ordinary citizen frequently receives by the all-too-often bored clerks of the court. Clearly, simply, and often humorously, Mr. Lehman describes the rights, privileges, and duties jurors need to know in order to serve effectively. Furthermore, in order to help them extract meaningful evidence from conflicting testimonies, advice is offered on how to remain an impartial juror and deliberate a verdict objectively. Finally, the author offers some constructive suggestions on how the present jury system could be improved.