The newspapers, the journals of business and economics and the law reviews have reflected mounting interest in the issues arising out of business combination—the union and consequent growth of individual private enterprises. While current heavy merger activity in the United States is keeping public concern with the subject lively, and other periodicals are continually developing the nation-wide discourse on antitrust law, it is our opinion that a crucial and interesting approach to this subject lies almost untouched, even to the extent that an authoritative symposium is appropriate.

People whose profession it is to find the law quickly and understand it deeply are sometimes accused of seeking it in the wrong place. The stock indictment of lawyers is that they have eyes only in the back of their heads, in that they spend more time looking for precedents than in fashioning policies and arguments cognizant of the present and the future. In the interest of legal foresight, then, we have asked five authorities on antitrust to project their expertise toward the near future, and to discuss the implications of the policies, laws and economic analyses of today for the world to be in the next ten or fifteen years. What will be the probable, the possible, and the ideal characteristics of antitrust policy and law for that time?

In the belief that economists and lawyers will be “jointly and severally liable” for the future of antitrust, we did not hesitate to “cross the lines.” We invited contributions to the symposium from what we thought were two provinces of learning on the subject, only to find, as we should have foreseen, that none of the writers recognizes provincial boundaries between the disciplines of law and economics with regard to antitrust issues. Consequently, the symposium represents a merger—a wholly beneficial and legal one we believe—of scholarship by lawyers and economists, for the purpose of examining the outlook for antitrust.

Our contributors are Professor Walter Adams of Michigan State University, J. Fred Weston of the University of California, Los Angeles, David D. Martin of Indiana University, and Wallace M. Rudolph of the University of Nebraska, and Mr. Kirkley S. Coulter, Minority Economist to the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee. Their viewpoints, particular topics and approaches differ—but their concern is with one problem: the clarification of the present for the sake of the future of antitrust law and policy.

THE EDITORS
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