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Editors' Page

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EDITORS' PAGE

The constantly expanding purview of the administrative process has quite naturally been accompanied by intensified public concern. The reason for the concern is obvious. As stated by President John F. Kennedy in a message to Congress on April 13, 1961, "[t]he responsibilities with which they [regulatory agencies] have been entrusted permeate every sphere and almost every activity of our national life." The judicial system of this country has generally enjoyed a reputation as a system truly providing equal justice for all. The administrative process does not share this tradition. While court decisions are often questioned, the system generally is not. However, it is often the administrative process, as well as individual decisions, that is characterized as arbitrary. It is toward this charge of arbitrariness that our symposium is directed.

Our contributors are Senator Edward V. Long of Missouri, Professor Maurice H. Merrill of the University of Oklahoma, Professor Albert Broderick of the Catholic University of America, and Professor M. Gene Blackburn of Drake University. Senator Long and Professor Merrill direct their attention toward the general concept of standards and its utility in reducing arbitrary decisions. Professors Broderick and Blackburn concentrate on specific situations involving the administrative process. Professor Broderick examines in depth the imposition of fines on union members. Professor Blackburn presents some thoughts on the adaptability of the administrative process to our institutions of higher learning, a subject which is extremely timely due to the well known displays of student power in recent weeks.

While none of the contributors professes to have any answers to the problem of arbitrary decisions, they do present thoughtful analysis of the problems and some practical suggestions. It is hoped that the symposium will contribute to an understanding of the administrative process.

THE EDITORS