BOOK REVIEWS


The trade association movement in the United States has grown so rapidly in recent years that there are now more than 8,000 of these voluntary organizations of business competitors. The majority of the 3,000,000 independent business units of this country are members of trade associations.

The Monopoly Inquiry at Washington in its investigation of monopolistic practices, the failure of competition and too much concentration of economic control is bound to direct its attention to this trade association movement.

The book under review performs the function of analyzing the leading federal and state decisions, law review articles, and even business and economic journals relating to trade associations. It is written in a clear text style with many quotations from relevant sources.

The authors clearly limit the scope of the book's treatment to legal and economic problems which are bound to appear where you have a federation of independent business units.

Separate chapters of this volume deal with the outstanding activities and services of trade associations. For example, Chapter II discusses the statistical reporting service whereby reports of prices, terms of sale, volume of production and similar informational facts are furnished members of the association. The legal problem will arise as to how far such services may extend without conflicting with anti-trust statutes and decisions. Likewise, economic and practical problems in the field of statistical reporting services are inter-related with the legal problems. The chapter contains much matter relating to such problems.

Obviously, a detailed treatment of all the activities of trade associations can not be included within the confines of a 400 page book, but a sufficient number of the more important ones is given careful consideration.

The whole work is amply sprinkled with pertinent quotations from leading anti-trust decisions. Many of them are subjected to close and careful scrutiny. Other matters, such as parts of pamphlets issued by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, are included. The book contains a useful table of cases and a workable index.

To the lawyer and law-student this volume will furnish necessary collateral reading to trade association decisions. Especially in the field of trade association law it will be necessary to supplement mere decisions of courts with some background material which will help the lawyer understand the economic and practical background of the cases. With modern government finding it necessary to enter into business fields due to economic conditions, with close investigation by governmental agencies into combinations of every type which might tend toward monopoly, the lawyer of today finds it necessary constantly to supplement his strictly legal knowledge of problems with knowledge of economic problems and practical workings of business groups. This book will be of aid for this purpose to both practitioner and law-student.

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