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The Quest for Law (Book Review)

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public opinion on abuses within labor's own ranks is bound to be an influence with which the government will sooner or later be concerned. Doubtless the authors, in recognizing the need that other material should supplement their book¹¹ in the solution of labor problems, felt that these subjects were beyond the scope of this book. Sufficient to say that this is a worthwhile work and teachers and students should enjoy its study.

JOHN P. MALONEY.*

THE QUEST FOR LAW. By William Seagle. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1941, pp. 439.

"Mankind has not lived by law as long as it has lived by custom. It may live by science longer than it has lived by law." These are the concluding words in this volume and to state them is to infer that this book is provocative, to say the least. Both sentences of the conclusion are undoubtedly subject to challenge, especially the latter, which is so devoid of faith in law in the future.

Perhaps it is Mr. Seagle's long career in the field of administrative law which has moved him inferentially to predict the inevitability of rule by Commission. This prediction is further emphasized by him, when he includes administrative law, "the law nobody knows", under the general heading of "the vanishing point of jurisprudence". The treatise on administrative law is exceptionally well done; how this branch of the law is related to archaic law is well demonstrated, and its unquestionable need in the modern complex world amply proven. How an administrative tribunal can be executive, legislative and judicial in its functioning is also fully discussed. But whether the author's view that the "administrative law of today is the ordinary law of tomorrow" is fully confirmed by our own experience is no doubt quite debatable.

Whereas it might appear from what has been said above, that the book centers on the theme of administrative law, such is not the case. Leading up to the discussion of administrative law, we have an excellent panorama of legal history from the very early days. As a panorama, it is naturally not detailed, nor was it intended to be. It is in no sense a meticulous delving into legal history. As a matter of fact, the book has been written for the information of laymen as well as lawyers. For a birdseye view of the struggle of law for its very existence, and the rise of equity in the leading legal systems of the world, no better book of its size is available. One may disagree with the conclusions, but one cannot fail to appreciate the excellence of the product.

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¹¹ P. xvi.

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