

## BOOKS RECEIVED

**The Company State: Ralph Nader's Study Group Report on DuPont in Delaware.** JAMES PHELAN AND ROBERT POZEN. New York: Grossman Publishers, 1973. Pp. 410. \$10.00. Latest in a series of public interest-oriented publications from the Center for Study of Responsive Law, this effort takes a trenchant, critical look at DuPont's interlaced network of corporate organization and family structure from the point of view of the overall impact on the state and its citizens. The authors contend that the company and family, operating in part through the instrumentalities of their agents (two of the four main banks, the major law firms, the Greater Wilmington Development Council and the state's two largest newspapers), have secured an operative stranglehold on the economy and life of Delaware. Tracing this pervasive influence through the halls of local and state government, the authors find a nearly complete subordination of the public endeavor to this private interest. They complete the critique with a series of recommendations directed toward increasing the DuPont corporate establishment's accountability to the community, as well as suggestions regarding the reformation of state law. This would include shifts in the existing power structure by effecting greater public participation and endorsing the concept of corporate democracy. Additionally, the authors recommend a basic reallocation of resources through tax reform and an increase in public programs.

**Dead End.** RONALD A. BUEL. Baltimore: Penguin Books Inc., 1973. Pp. 231. \$1.45. The author presents an in-depth report on the automobile in American society, commencing with an explanation of the structure of our economy and the pressures exerted upon it by the automobile industry. Essentially, it is his contention that this industry has exploited our social frailties and our fervent desire for material possessions. Buel attributes the automobile industry's success to its widespread advertising. However, he remarks that a consumer rebellion is presently in progress. The status symbol vehicle is being replaced by comparatively inexpensive imports, which poses a distinct threat to established buying patterns. The author observes that the automobile industry must begin to reflect this consumer preference in its products if it expects to maintain its proportion of market sales.

Buel further scrutinizes the effect of the automobile on vio-

lence, air pollution, road construction and energy consumption. He notes that our transportation system, with its emphasis on private ownership of automobiles, is a major factor in preserving poverty levels. Initial cost, maintenance, and depreciation constitute the primary variables. Nevertheless, Buel is optimistic in his view of the future. He introduces several modes of transportation that may reduce and eventually eradicate private ownership of automobiles, generally founded on the need for increased dependency on an effective system of mass transit. An important element providing the impetus for change is an increased "political sophistication," brought about as the consumer inevitably must exercise his aggregate political muscle to achieve desired ends.

**Federal Jurisdiction: A General View.** HENRY J. FRIENDLY. New York: Columbia University Press, 1973. Pp. 199. \$10.00. Chief Judge Friendly of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit has made an important contribution towards effecting reform in the overloaded federal courts. Because of the evolution of the Constitution, the increase in the amount of federal legislation and a greater willingness on the part of citizens to employ a federal forum to resolve their legal difficulties, the federal court structure strains under the overwhelming and ever-increasing burden. Congress is currently considering a variety of remedies and Judge Friendly presents recommendations that will aid the legislators in bringing about a solution. Instead of increasing the size and personnel of federal courts, Judge Friendly contends that the proper tack is to limit federal jurisdiction. This would involve an alteration of the growing federal criminal jurisdiction and an increase in the use of administrative agencies to enforce federal regulations. Diversity jurisdiction should be eliminated or greatly restricted and additional federal courts should be created for specialized areas (patent law and tax claims) to relieve the load on federal courts handling general matters. Judge Friendly's scholarly appraisal of the current scope of federal jurisdiction and his recommendations to ease the over-burdened federal courts through a reduction in intake is a valuable effort which should contribute to an eventual solution.

**Roots of War.** RICHARD J. BARNET. Baltimore: Penguin Books Inc., 1973. Pp. 350. \$1.65. The tragedy of United States involvement in Vietnam serves as the focal point for this comprehensive study of

the forces in American life that have kept this country at war, either overtly or covertly, for an entire generation following the end of World War II. The author, a founder and director of the Institute for Policy Studies, argues that this generation's pursuit of the national interest through a state of permanent war may be explained principally by examining American society. War is a social institution, and thus, this nation's interest in wars will cease only when societal values change.

The roots of war are traced throughout the various elements of American society—the state, the economy, the political process and the public. The author places a particular emphasis on the state, and is critical of the comparatively recent role of corporate lawyers functioning as national security managers. He suggests that there must be a reorganization of the structure of society to achieve lasting peace. Further, the exclusive concentration of power in a national security bureaucracy must cease, with the security managers being brought back under popular control. Congress must reassert its constitutional prerogatives in the area of foreign policy and the President's power to commit troops abroad without a declaration of war should be limited. The author concludes that if the American people want a nation in peace, they must be prepared to build a society rooted in the politics of peace.

**You and Your Pension.** RALPH NADER AND KATE BLACKWELL. New York: Grossman Publishers, 1973. Pp. 215. \$1.65. Authors Nader and Blackwell scrutinize employee pension programs which, because of a general lack of understanding by both the general public and prospective pensioners, have too often resulted in total loss of expected pension benefits and, consequently, the economic security of retiring employees. The authors suggest that the basic reason for the unfortunate and unexpected loss of a pension is the general feeling on the part of employees that the deduction from their wages is "their" money being invested and, thus, that it must necessarily be returned upon retirement. However, the pension programs are more comparable to fire insurance, whereby the insured only receives compensation upon the happening of a contingency—a fire with consequent damage. In the case of pensions, many people participate, far fewer receive benefits, and the contingency consists of strict conformance to employment guidelines generally unknown to the employee. It is through the authors' comprehensive examination of the various pension plans and the advantages, disadvan-

tages and requirements of each, that it is hoped employees will be aware of what strict procedural requirements must be met to avoid the loss of an expected pension. An increased understanding of the pension system that has ever-expanding socio-economic ramifications will lead prospective pensioners to bring about changes in the system to eliminate costly inequities.