BOOK REVIEWS

ANTITRUST POLICY: AN ECONOMIC AND LEGAL ANALYSIS.


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Antitrust has come a long way since the hearings, monographs, and reports of the Temporary National Economic Committee in the late 1930's, coinciding with the vigorous antitrust enforcement phase of the Rooseveltian New Deal, brought together an imposing array of information and views on the problems relating to monopoly and restraint of trade. The "new" Sherman Act has been developed through judicial doctrines which make of the statute a more effective set of controls over anticompetitive industrial structure and business conduct than existed before. The patent laws, construed in conjunction with the antitrust statutes, foster monopoly to a lesser extent than previously. On the legislative side, the deficiencies of section 7 of the Clayton Act have been remedied,1 the penalty provisions of the Sherman Act have been strengthened,2 and the applicable law of limitations has been clarified.3 The report of the Attorney General's National Committee to Study the Antitrust Laws has brought together a far better analysis of antitrust doctrine and policy than was available before. The American Bar Association Section of Antitrust Law publishes in its semiannual proceedings an increasing flow of informed discussion of contemporary problems. Economic analysis, culminating in the recent hearings, studies and reports of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee,4 makes available a much more refined and precise set of diagnoses of price behavior and its effects than existed a few years ago.

All of these developments, and the possibilities of more effective antitrust enforcement which grow from them, are now accompanied by a climate of opinion in this and other countries which places less complete reliance on planning and correspondingly more reliance on competition as economic determinants than was the case twenty-five or thirty years ago when the socialist influence was stronger. Even in Great Britain, the traditional

†Professor of Law, Indiana University. Professor Fuchs has expressed indebtedness to Samuel M. Loescher of the Department of Economics, Indiana University, for information concerning some of the economic references cited.

4See the list of hearings, study papers and reports prepared under the study of employment, growth, and price levels, in S. REP. No. 1043, 86th Cong., 2d Sess. 145-47 (1960).
stronghold of tolerance for private restrictions on competition, the Restrictive Trade Practices Act of 1956 has been implemented effectively and has called attention to legislative provisions and enforcement devices that may have value in this country.\(^5\)

Notwithstanding these conditions favorable to a strong antitrust policy, it cannot be said that the central problem of freeing the economy from monopolistic private power has been solved. Relatively inflexible, "administered" prices continue in the sale of many commodities, apparently contributing significantly to the gradual and general inflation which has persisted in the face of declining prices in some areas of the economy;\(^6\) and there is a recognizable correlation between this price inflexibility and industrial concentration on the selling side of the markets where goods are sold.\(^7\) If this concentration has not increased, it has certainly not diminished;\(^8\) yet antitrust enforcement rarely challenges it and even less often succeeds in curtailing it.\(^9\) The heritage of the decades when mergers were numerous and market power was built up through practices now regarded as illegal is still with us; the strength of existing law and the present means of enforcement are not sufficient to cope with it.

Into this situation the authors have cast their volume, the crux of which is a concrete proposal, with which the book concludes, to supplement the present federal antitrust laws with new legislation. The book is for the initiated; the text surveys the whole range of antitrust issues in a relatively small space and comments on decisions and other developments which are assumed to be known to the reader. Its perusal is rewarding, for its treatment of the subject is realistic and accurate. Its objective of formulating a specific legislative measure that can be considered and made the basis of action, to the extent the proposal is deemed to be sound, is admirable. Remedies other than legislation are not likely to produce much effect at the present juncture of affairs. The authors' bill, beside formulating a new means of reducing market power grounded in existing industrial concentration, confirms and makes some additions to recent judicial holdings with regard to a range of anticompetitive practices.

In their introductory first chapter, the authors identify the aims of antitrust policy and the central problem with which they intend to deal. Briefly put, that problem exists because "we do not believe that the law

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\(^9\) The recent cases in which divestiture has been accomplished are enumerated by the authors at 109-11, 123.
on monopoly has reached the point of covering, or could be fairly construed
to cover, the case where monopoly power is effectively exercised, wholly
without agreed-upon courses of action, by a small group of sellers in an
oligopoly market.” (p. 21. See also p. 110). In such a market, neither
the power of each large seller taken separately nor substantial identity of
conduct among them affords a reliable basis for remedial antitrust action,
despite some indications to the contrary in important court opinions. (pp.
107-09). During the past two decades antitrust enforcement has succeeded
to a notable extent in curbing certain definite exertions of market power,
such as tying arrangements, requirements contracts, collective refusals to
deal, and patent licensing restrictions; but in the absence of these practices
the disadvantage that could result from dissolving business entities or holding
normal business conduct to be illegal have tipped the scales in favor of
the status quo.

The second chapter of the book presents a brief survey, amplified in
appendices, of market structures in the American economy, and is designed
to indicate the extent to which market power probably exists. According
to the criteria adopted by the authors, “structural oligopoly is the numer-
ically dominant form of market organization in manufacturing.” (p. 32).
And because concentration is especially marked in the durable goods and
investment goods industries, the economic importance of this preponderance
of concentration is greater than the mere number of industries in which it
exists would indicate. Statistically less reliable indications of concentration
in the mineral industries indicate a similar condition there. Account is also
taken of the strategic and quantitative importance of the regulated industries
which are largely exempt from antitrust legislation.

The remedy which the authors propose for the concentration of market
power which the prevailing industrial structure indicates is the creation of a
new Industrial Reorganization Commission charged with initiating pro-
cedings in a new Economic Court to subject the firms in industries in
which “unreasonable market power” is deemed to exist to divestiture,
divorcement, and dissolution decrees. The authors reject any absolute limit
on business size for two reasons: first, business efficiency and progress are
more important than competition, and to apply such a limit might lessen
them; and second, even if it were applied to the greatest conceivable extent
such as limiting firm assets to twenty-five million dollars, only about 10,000
firms would be added to the 3.6 million firms in the unregulated sector of
the economy and the Jeffersonian purpose of promoting a society of small
proprietorships, which might supply an alternative reason for such a policy,
would not be appreciably advanced.

10 Compare Professor Louis B. Schwartz' proposal to limit initial expansion of
antitrust legislation to "basic" industries. Schwartz, New Approaches to the Control

11 But note that Professor Schwartz advocates a figure of one billion dollars as
one of the standards which would subject a firm to close regulation or dissolution. Id. at 47.
To identify those industries in which market power should be reduced by, in effect, reorganization decrees, the authors propose a statutory test which combines structural and performance elements. The performance element is the basic one, for market power is defined as "the persistent ability of a person, or of a group of persons whether or not acting pursuant to agreement or conspiracy, to restrict output or determine prices without losing a substantial share of the market, or without losing substantial profits or incurring heavier losses, because of the increased output or lower prices of rivals." (p. 266). Market power is evidenced, but not exclusively, by (1) persistent failure of prices to reflect substantial declines of demand or costs, or to reflect substantial excess capacity; (2) persistence of profits that are abnormally high, taking into account such factors as risks and excess capacity; or (3) failure of new rivals to enter the market during prolonged periods of abnormally high profits or of persistent or recurrent rationing. The structural element is added to the definition by a conclusive presumption that market power exists "where, for 5 years or more, one company has accounted for 50 percent or more of annual sales in the market, or four or fewer companies have accounted for 80 percent of sales." (p. 267). Market power is "unreasonable" and is subject to a remedial decree unless the defendants show it "to have been created and maintained, entirely or almost entirely," by economies "dependent upon size," the "ownership of valid patents, lawfully acquired and lawfully used," or by "low prices or superior products attributable to the introduction of new processes, product improvements or marketing methods, or to extraordinary efficiency of a single firm in comparison with . . . other firms." (p. 268).

Limitations of space forbid even an approach to adequate discussion of this proposal. Given the prevalence of economically significant concentration in manufacturing industries under the apparently valid measures which the authors and others 12 apply, and given the "administered" price behavior and wasteful marketing methods which this concentration fosters, 13 one is led to hope for a statutory definition that would call, before performance is to be taken into account, for remedial action in far more instances than the authors' conclusive presumption would bring into court. The authors, however, deem the gaps in existing knowledge to be so great "that our conclusions about the functioning of any concrete market depend on the joint study of both structure and performance." (p. 16). Although "the concept of market power is basically a structural concept," (p. 75) its identification for remedial purposes is dependent in most instances on an examination of performance.

The trouble with this approach is illustrated by the difficulties connected with the "persistence of profits that are abnormally high" as evidence of market power. "Abnormally high" profits must be measured against a norm; and that norm, as defined by the authors, is "the long-run supply price of capital," indicated by "the bond-interest rate on first-grade industrial

13 Id. at 477-602.
bonds, plus an allowance for the extra riskiness of returns to equity capital, appropriate to the character of the industry,” or by “the historical average returns for firms in competitive industries over long periods.” (p. 63). The “extra riskiness” of certain industries might, for example, result from their vulnerability to cyclical fluctuations; but one supposes that many other factors might be urged. One questions, too, whether successful firms should be limited to the average profits of successful and unsuccessful ones in competitive industries. When to these difficulties are added those which the authors emphasize, of measuring the factors that may prevent market power from being unreasonable market power, the question naturally arises whether the proposal provides an essentially better enforcement tool than the Sherman Act. For reasons to appear, this reviewer believes that it does, even though a more drastic one might be defended.

An explanation of the conservative—even somewhat hesitant—nature of the authors’ proposal appears in an illuminating preface to their book by Dean Edward S. Mason, where it is disclosed that “although this volume has been written by the two authors whose names are appended, the study is, in an important sense, the product” of a discussion group of lawyers and economists at Harvard, extending over several years. (p. xix). As to the central proposal of a market power standard, there was considerable disagreement in the group, and some remained unconvinced that the standard might not impose harmful checks on business growth by threatening the rewards of efficiency. Others doubted that it was sufficiently clear for effective adjudication. With such warnings confronting them, the authors’ informed judgment could hardly have been different from what it is.

Whether or not it contains an ultimate solution to the market power problem, the Kaysen-Turner proposal embodies a distinct advance which, in the absence of improvement through the discussion it will doubtless arouse, seems worthy of enactment in substance. Its particular strengths lie on the administrative side. Although the creation of a third enforcement device consisting of a commission and a court, alongside the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice, and the federal courts, requires considerable justification, this justification resides in the magnitude of the task to be undertaken if existing unreasonable market power is to be attacked successfully. It is too much to expect that the present agencies, burdened with the duties they have been attempting to discharge, could make much impression on the task, or that individual United States district judges could summon the confidence and fortitude to dismember major industrial enterprises which asserted sincerely and plausibly that their continuance was essential to progress and prosperity.

The authors have specific ideas for coordinating the efforts of the enforcement agencies that would exist if their proposal were adopted. (p. 265). One must assume, despite the historic differences between the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, that coordination is possible and will be undertaken in good faith if a specific congressional
directive is enacted. The proposed Economic Court would be a fully judicial body, composed of judges assigned to it for periods sufficient to enable them to acquire expertness without losing the character of judges. (p. 255). Although much might be said for an administrative agency rather than a court to determine such matters in the first instance, the judicial device appears appropriate here, as English experience indicates. Objection to the "combination of prosecutor and judge" is thereby obviated, and the prestige of the judiciary is employed in a task of major difficulty. And the expertness required is not that of the physical scientist or of intimate and continuing knowledge of a narrow range of affairs, such as many of the regulatory agencies use.

If Congress and the country are seriously in favor of a policy of relying on competition as the major device for securing the public interest in areas of the economy which are not regulated by an administrative agency, they should be willing to provide enough enforcement machinery for the job and give its units manageable tasks to perform. Whether or not the statutory language the authors propose supplies a clearer criterion for ultimate judgment of the existence of monopoly power than the Sherman Act now contains, something along the lines of their proposal is necessary to provide a foundation for enforcement action. Granted that a sufficient per se rule of illegality based on market structure is not feasible, the burden of proof should at least be shifted from the Government to the defendants when market power is shown to exist; such power surely justifies putting the possessor to his proof of consistency with the public interest as legislatively defined. Perhaps the necessity of undergoing legal scrutiny could be imposed, without substantial harm, on concerns having a far smaller place in the structure of a market or industry than is involved in the authors' "conclusive presumption." 

The authors rightly conclude that the criminal and treble-damage remedies under the Sherman Act get in the way of fair and effective enforcement against market power or business conduct that does not result from predatory intent or consist of violation of sharply defined prohibitions. Although the fear of subsequent treble-damage recoveries against them—enhanced by the prima facie evidence that results from a conviction or decree on the merits in a Government action—may induce defendants to plead nolo contendere or enter into consent judgments in such actions and thereby facilitate enforcement without trials, this advantage may be purchased at the cost of unwise agreements in some instances. Certainly the implicit

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14 See note 5 supra.
16 See also Professor Schwartz’ contention that “the criminal and treble-damage provisions of the Sherman and Clayton Acts would be inappropriate to cases of this character involving no imputations of misbehavior or illicit monopolistic intent.” Schwartz, supra note 10, at 48.
adjudication of criminal guilt and the potentiality of large treble-damage recoveries, which reside in a decree on the merits, tend to induce caution in the judges in Sherman Act equity proceedings. (Cf. pp. xvi-xvii).\textsuperscript{19} In criminal proceedings the prosecution has at times not been above resorting to rather blatant appeals to jury prejudice,\textsuperscript{20} and the Government has recently secured confirmation of the severe one-sidedness of the use in civil proceedings of evidence uncovered by grand jury investigations, which exists so long as compelling reasons to the contrary are not made to appear.\textsuperscript{21} All told, therefore, it is sound to propose, as the authors do, that criminal and treble-damage liability be confined to willful violations of a list of specific infractions which they would incorporate into the Sherman Act; that the monopolization provision of section 2 of the act be replaced by the provision for eliminating unreasonable market power which has been described; that the enforcement of the latter be confined to equity decrees; and that the Industrial Reorganization Commission have subpoena powers. (p. 265).

There is not space to discuss here the list of specific prohibitions (pp. 270-71) which the authors' proposed statutory amendments would add to the antitrust laws. Those which go beyond consolidating judicial and Federal Trade Commission doctrine into legislation include some interesting prohibitions of informational exchange among competitors and the outlawry of all price fixing by patentees in licensing agreements. As to the latter, there is express recognition that there could be instances in which "a price-fixing provision would be the only effective way, short of no licensing at all, in which a small firm patent-holder could protect its manufacturing operations against a large rival"; but on balance the prohibition is favored. (p. 173). Also favored is a statutory provision for five-year "petty patents" to afford an outlet for the strong pressure for reward to the creators of minor advances in the "arts." (p. 171). The authors also include useful summaries of important policy problems arising in the regulated industries (pp. 189-213) and in the relation of tax, government procurement and property disposal, small business aid, and tariff policies to market power. (pp. 214-33).

This book is especially commendable because it drives through to conclusions on all significant issues discussed, without pretense that the supporting data are better than they are and with a willingness to accept the consequences of doing the best that can be done with available information. The purpose is to contribute to progress in the solution of important public problems. Such a discussion is in accord with the best democratic methods and should find more support in academic traditions than it does. Here is political economy in a fine sense of the term. May there be more published efforts of a similar sort; and may legislative action result.

\textsuperscript{20} An outstanding example is discussed in the opinions in United States v. Socony-Vacuum Oil Co., 310 U.S. 150 (1940).
An anomaly in the development of the American legal profession since World War II has been the lag in lawyers' understanding of the critical problems of diplomacy, strategy, and international politics. In this period, which has often been termed the time of our greatest national peril, the United States' dominance in military, economic, and political power has rapidly shrunk, while the relative strength of the U.S.S.R. has grown and the ability of other nations to manifest independence from the United States in cultural, economic, and diplomatic activity has increased. American lawyers, whose traditional initiative has provided leadership in all other periods of crisis, have seemed unable—indeed, unwilling—to grasp the frustrating complexities of current United States foreign relations. There have, of course, been notable exceptions: in governmental agencies, in the international legal studies programs of several law schools, and in the devoted efforts of associations working on problems of international and comparative law.

But, in the main, the American bar has either refused to face the realities of foreign affairs, or sought refuge in worthwhile but tangential research projects such as the numerous valuable studies concerned with the legal aspects of doing business abroad.

Professor Henkin's pioneering study on arms control and American law, published late in 1958, is, therefore, of special value as an example of the needed scholarship in public law and diplomacy. Seizing one of the thorniest nettles of them all, Mr. Henkin has written with the highest professional competence about what American participation in an effective arms control and inspection system could mean to our legal institutions and values. No precedents and few analogies exist to guide forecasts of how an international arms inspection system would work in the United States, yet the author plots a foreseeable pattern of constitutional involvement, legislative implementation, administrative enforcement, and state and local cooperation.

As a foundation for other portions of his treatise, Professor Henkin examines the constitutional aspects of an arms control and inspection program which could meet the minimal requirements of United States foreign policy for mutual application in Western and Soviet nations. He

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2 The most recent and vigorous program by the organized bar in international relations is the "World Peace Through Law" effort undertaken in the last two and a half years by the American Bar Association. This project, which is still in its early stages, has conducted extensive correspondence and negotiation with the organized bars of the free world, and is now planning, with the support of the Ford Foundation, a series of major conferences. The American Law Institute's project on the foreign relations law of the United States is another example of assumption of responsibility by the legal profession.
concludes that "the probable characteristics of an arms control plan lie largely within the framework of the United States Constitution." (p. 153). In a brilliant analysis of the interrelationship between constitutional requirements and foreign policy needs, Professor Henkin unravels the prospective tangle of factual and legal issues with a lawyerlike skill that could come only from a combination of experience in appellate research and operational responsibility in diplomacy and international organization. Nor are constitutional considerations neglected in the rest of the book, which contains chapters on arms control provisions, congressional implementation, state laws, and international administration and adjudication, and which is supplemented by approximately ninety pages of notes. Future researchers are thus provided with guidance in dealing with American and international law pertinent to arms limitation negotiations.

As this review is written nearly two years after the book's publication, perhaps the most valuable present contribution is to point to contemporary and foreseeable manifestations of problems anticipated by the author in 1958. In the domestic area, for example, Professor Henkin's discussion of the prosecution of individuals for violation of arms control treaties and regulations analyzes the jurisdiction of international courts in areas and over persons subject to the protection of the United States Constitution. (pp. 122-48). Hedging on a flat evaluation of constitutional necessity, the author concludes that, to authorize international courts to assume such jurisdiction, "a constitutional amendment might be in order, whether or not strictly required." (p. 143). The wisdom of this prescription is perhaps even more evident now than in 1958. Since the publication of the book, a major program has been undertaken by governmental leaders and independent lawyers and scholars to secure the withdrawal of the "self-judging" element of the Connally reservation to the United States' consent to the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. Proponents of withdrawal wisely have emphasized their belief that unfettered accedence to the jurisdiction of the World Court would not require delegation of American judicial power to the international tribunal. But new treaties or legislation which might establish international jurisdiction in multipartite tribunals in areas of such crucial and traditional constitutional concern as individual liberty must still take account of the necessity of authorizing control measures through traditional constitutional


4 For a good brief review of the content of Professor Henkin's book, see Fahy, Book Review, 73 Harv. L. Rev. 811 (1960).

procedures—which include, of course, formal amendment of the Constitution.

The determination of judicial jurisdiction over alleged violations of limitation and inspection regulations is but one part of the problem of imposing sanctions for violations of arms control agreements. The problem of a sanctions plan—to this reviewer an essential part of any control system—has not yet been probed sufficiently in any publicly available study. In the current Western-Soviet contretemps, the subtle complexities of negotiating about sanctions admittedly pose enormous problems for diplomats, highlighting the need for advance analysis and preparation. Limitations of space doubtless dissuaded Professor Henkin from undertaking a treatment of sanctions, yet an intensive study of the legal problems of imposing them against nations which violate control regulations would make a valuable extension of his analysis.

Under the recent shifting stresses of international politics, the urgency of inquiries such as Professor Henkin's appears even more real than it did in 1958. The superficial thaw in the cold war has vanished, and Soviet hysteria over unilateral U-2 flights sharpens the realization in Western minds of the reluctance of the U.S.S.R. to submit its territory and military developments to foreign scrutiny. Consequently, free world planners, in continuing to work for a long-term arms inspection plan, must stiffen their own resolve to check on Soviet treaty compliance by objective international inspections. And if Soviet approval of such measures should be obtained, the *quid pro quo* would be similar examination of United States facilities for production, storage, and use. Anticipating this problem, Professor Henkin proposed that Congress, as well as the President, take an active part in implementing arms control through suitable legislation. (pp. 84-96). Here the character of his study necessarily permitted only a broad, conceptual treatment.

If a reciprocal inspection program should ever be instituted, a highly detailed series of plans would have to be worked out; the task would encompass not only the conventional fitting of new legislation and rules to older constitutional, statutory, and administrative requirements in federal, state, and local law, but also would demand consideration both of the commitments existing under an international treaty system and of the patterns of conduct under other national law systems. The domestic law problems of unitary (nonfederal) forms of government in allied nations as well as those of the Soviet system may not assume the same form as

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6 Diplomatic sensitivities and difficulties in prescribing military, politico-economic, and legal-administrative sanctions have doubtless led arms control planners to subordinate consideration of sanctions to the task of drafting the terms of control and inspection. It would be dangerous to agree to the substance of limitations without having made detailed plans for action in the event of violation by signatories or their nationals. Uncertainties over enforcement are in fact among the chief obstacles to acceptance of an effective arms limitation plan.

7 The Henkin study forthrightly and cogently examines the legal implications of foreign inspection of activities within the United States (chs. IV, V, and VI).
ours, and the United States would be ill advised to undertake domestic implementation of controls without knowing what can be done by other governments and how the actual inspections—aerial, surface, and subsurface—will be conducted elsewhere. Advance research on such subjects should be carried out with a care and incisiveness that matches the efforts now being devoted to the science of arms production and delivery.

The awesome prospects of undertaking studies on the whole range of problems so presciently forecast by Professor Henkin indicate the dilemma facing lawyers with respect to the legal ramifications of international arms control. But if the risks to mankind of not achieving arms control are vastly greater than those arising out of a control system such as that considered in Professor Henkin's study, then responsible citizenry—including lawyers—must grapple with the task.

Like other elements of strategy, the problem of arms control does not require or even permit a single, exclusive solution. Some current thought indicates that a partial arms control system may in itself be a sound, or even the wisest, course of American national defense policy in the foreseeable future. If so, the legal as well as the scientific procedures for alternative partial arms control programs by national and international means should be examined immediately and comprehensively.

Even since Professor Henkin concluded his study in 1958, both Western and Soviet scientists have accomplished major advances in weaponry. Satellites circle the earth: instruments aboard them already possess the capacity to photograph accurately installations anywhere on the earth's surface. Furthermore, new detection devices may minimize the surprise of missile launchings. These present and possible scientific developments not only influence the specific content of plans for arms control systems, but also affect critically the complex of political, economic, diplomatic, and human-will factors which determine whether arms limitations agreements are possible in the decades ahead.

From the American point of view, efforts to survive as a free nation should include the weighing of effective arms control systems in terms of their varying impact on the domestic affairs of all countries concerned. Assuming a national determination to secure our domestic system of justice under law, the legal profession bears a key responsibility for planning. Professor Henkin's *Arms Control and Inspection in American Law* marks the outlines of many of the problems lawyers must survey. If other scholars can conduct supplementary legal analyses with the same care, wisdom, and fairness, the legal profession could approach fulfillment of its proper duty in United States foreign relations.

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8 The Administration's evaluation of the need for arms control is set forth in a Letter From President Eisenhower to Senator Humphrey. N.Y. Times, Nov. 27, 1959, p. 1, col. 8.