

that the utility business is not just a normal, free-enterprise, "risk" business. It is, on the contrary, a cost-plus business, its expenses guaranteed and its rates supposedly fixed by regulatory bodies to give it a fair 6 per cent return. Failure is unheard-of because the enterprise is guaranteed against it. Tragically, however, most regulatory bodies are understaffed and impotent; and, whenever there is no nearby publicly-owned utility functioning as a yardstick, the rates of the monopoly climb. They climb to such an extent that the thirty-four largest power companies, accounting for two-thirds of the profits of the industry, showed an average net profit of 16¢ on every dollar of revenue in 1964. And for some it was as much as 25¢.

This utility gravy train, as the authors make clear, has nourished some of the most vicious propaganda in modern America. For decades the industry has cloaked itself in the flag, and in massive advertising campaigns it has envisioned Communism and Socialism as pervasive menaces threatening "the American way." The authors call this "Madison Avenue McCarthyism," and they emphasize that literally millions of dollars have been poured into propaganda campaigns which underwrite the paranoid views of the John Birch Society and its ideological brethren. The ties are nakedly obvious. The authors write: "A spot survey in 1964, by no means complete, showed about eighty instances in which top officials of approximately fifty power companies also served as officials of about a dozen extremist groups."

What are these groups like? A good example is the Foundation for Economic Education, founded in 1946 and bankrolled in its first three years by more than a million dollars in contributions from forty-six corporations and tax-exempt foundations. In 1964, Internal Revenue reports showed, thirty-one power companies across the nation were still contributing handsomely to FEE. The philosophy that so endears the Foundation to the industry is regularly on display in *The Freeman*, its monthly magazine. "Recent *Freeman* articles," Metcalf and Reinemer write, "call for the repeal of the income tax, U.S. withdrawal from the United Nations, abolition of public post offices, public education, public roads and public power, and getting the government out of all businesses, even its own." Government, according to FEE, should have just two purposes: to police the home front and to keep peace abroad. It is such views, as simplistic and irrational as those of the anarchists at the turn of the century, that the power industry is underwriting; such propaganda that it is helping to spread through the tactic of getting FEE literature into literally

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The Gate of God

Judaism and the Christian Predicament, by Ben Zion Bokser (Knopf, 384 pp. \$6.95), discusses three areas of disagreement in the contemporary interfaith dialogue. Albert H. Friedlander teaches intellectual history at the Leo Baeck College in London.

By ALBERT H. FRIEDLANDER

THERE is a certain stridency in the current Christian-Jewish dialogue that indicates the strain to which contemporary religion finds itself subjected. Rabbi Bokser's latest book is one more example of the dangers inherent in a field where apologetics tends more and more to become polemics.

The "Christian predicament," as Dr. Bokser sees it, rests on its insistence that the roots of its legitimacy are in Judaism. Since Judaism challenges this interpretation, the Christian self-image is affronted and frustrated to the point where the Jew is viewed and treated as an evil enemy, and the Jewish heritage is torn out of its historical frame and rewritten to restore peace of mind to the Christian. But in the contemporary climate Jewish-Christian differences can at least be discussed; and Rabbi Bokser notes that there are three areas of disagreement which need elucidation: the nature of Jewish Scriptures, the nature of the rabbinic tradition, and the nature of the Christian experience.

The author's previous works have displayed his competence in the Jewish field. And in the delineation of the nature of Hebrew Scripture and rabbinic tradition Rabbi Bokser is at his best.

Warmth and informed scholarship give a clear picture of Jewish tradition and refute Christian misconceptions that have persisted over the centuries. The uniqueness of the Biblical religion, the moral greatness of the Pharisees, and other disputed topics are well presented.

Unfortunately, when it explores the Christian experience the book falters. Modern criticism has placed Jesus and the Gospels far more in the rabbinic oral tradition than Bokser realizes; he still battles a nineteenth-century scholarship long since superseded. Some of these old notions do persist among Christian Fundamentalists, but that community is impervious to modern scholarship; and Bokser's re-creation of New Testament history can only address itself to Christian scholars who have largely abandoned the quest for the historical Jesus. Bokser would like the liberal Christian theologian to define Christianity; but the self-definition of contemporary Christianity cannot ignore radical theology or the new traditionalism.

BOKSER's call for religious coexistence in a pluralistic society can only be welcomed, particularly when it is put in Martin Buber's terms: "The gate of God is open to all." That gate is righteous action. Dr. Bokser is thus justified in demanding repentance from a Church gone astray; more, he can teach it that private passions and prejudices have obscured its true Hebraic heritage—the Hebrew Scriptures have been more misused than used by Christianity. But he cannot force the daughter religion into the Jewish structure. The fact remains that Christianity has left the old path and must be permitted to find its own way to the gate of righteous action. Coexistence implies both dialogue and the integrity of each faith's vision.



"Donald roared himself out in the Twenties."

SR's Check List of the Week's New Books

Collections

AN ALASKAN READER. Edited by Senator Ernest Gruening. Meredith. \$8.95.
SELECTED WRITINGS BY CHARLES OLSON. Edited by Robert Creeley. New Directions. Hardbound, \$7.95. Paperback, \$2.45.

Crime, Suspense

THE CASE OF THE GOOD EMPLOYER. By Christopher Bush. Macmillan. \$3.95.
THE DAMSEL. By Richard Stark. Macmillan. \$3.95.
A MOST PRIVATE INTRIGUE. By Leo Rosten. Atheneum. \$5.95.
SALLY. By E. V. Cunningham. Morrow. \$4.50.

Current Affairs

CONTROLLING POLLUTION: The Economics of a Cleaner America. Edited by Marshall I. Goldman. Prentice-Hall. Hardbound, \$4.95. Paperback, \$1.95.
EDUCATION AND THE QUEST FOR MODERNITY IN TURKEY. By Andreas M. Kazamias. Univ. of Chicago Press. \$6.
LETTERS FROM VIETNAM. Edited by Bill Adler. Dutton. \$3.95.
THE MEANING OF LIMITED WAR. By Robert McClintock. Houghton Mifflin. \$5.
PATTERNS OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT: Five Comparisons. Edited by Herbert J. Spiro. Prentice-Hall. Hardbound, \$4.95. Paperback, \$1.95.
TOMORROW'S NEWS: A Primer for Prophets. By R. L. Duffus. Norton. \$4.50.
TOWARDS A PAX AFRICANA: A Study of Ideology and Ambition. By Ali A. Mazrui. Univ. of Chicago Press. \$5.95.

Essays

BETWEEN KNOWING AND BELIEVING. By Pierre Lecomte du Noüy. McKay. \$6.50.
AN ESSAY ON CRITICISM. By Graham Hough. Norton. \$4.50.

Economics

DISARMAMENT AND WORLD ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE. Edited by Emile Benoit. Columbia Univ. Press. \$8.
PROFILE OF THE U.S. ECONOMY: A Survey of Growth and Change. By Emma S. Woytinsky. Praeger. \$12.50.

ESP

ESP IN LIFE AND LAB: Tracing Hidden Channels. By Louisa E. Rhine. Macmillan. \$5.95.
THE WORLD OF TED SERIOS: "Thoughtographic" Studies of an Extraordinary Mind. By Jule Eisenbud, M.D. Morrow. \$6.50.

Fiction

AFTER THE WAR. By Daniel Stern. Putnam. \$5.95.
BRIDGES AND BARS. By Rolf Schneider. Viking. \$4.95.
THE BUCKSTONES. By Paul I. Wellman. Trident. \$5.95.
CECILY. By Isabelle Holland. Lippincott. \$3.95.

THE FISH CAN SING. By Halldor Laxness. Crowell. \$5.95.
JUSTICE HUNGER: A Short Novel and Nine Stories. By Meyer Liben. Dial. \$4.50.
LOVE IS NOT A SAFE COUNTRY. By Paige Mitchell. Dutton. \$4.95.
MY BOY JOHN THAT WENT TO SEA. By James Vance Marshall. Morrow. \$3.95.
THE PAST THROUGH TOMORROW: "Future History" Stories. By Robert A. Heinlein. Putnam. \$5.95.
TALES OF MANHATTAN. By Louis Auchincloss. Houghton Mifflin. \$4.95.
THE \$300 MAN. By John Sanford. Prentice-Hall. \$4.95.
WHITE MULE. By William Carlos Williams. New Directions. \$4.95. (New edition.)

Government, Politics

CONGRESS: Its Contemporary Role. By Ernest Griffith. New York Univ. Press. Hardbound, \$6. Paperback, \$2.95.
CONGRESS NEEDS HELP. By Dr. Philip Donham and Robert J. Fahey. Random House. \$4.95.
FOREIGN POLICY AND DEMOCRATIC POLITICS: The American and British Experience. By Kenneth N. Waltz. Little, Brown. \$7.50.
PARASITISM AND SUBVERSION: The Case of Latin America. By Stanislaw Andreski. Pantheon. \$5.95.
POWER IN AMERICA: The Politics of a New Class. By David T. Bazelon. New American Library. \$7.50.

History

BATTLES OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA. By Charles A. Lockwood and Hans Christian Adamson. Crowell. \$6.95.
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CRISIS 1965: Background Paper and Proceedings of the Ninth Hammar skjöld Forum. Edited by John Carey. Oceana. \$6.
THE FORTRESS. By Robert Payne. Simon & Schuster. \$8.95.
JACKSONIAN ARISTOCRACY: Class and Democracy in New York 1830-1860. By Douglas T. Miller. Oxford Univ. Press. \$6.
LIVINGSTON'S LAKE: The Drama of Nyasa, Africa's Inland Sea. By Oliver Ransford. Crowell. \$6.95.
MANHATTAN PROJECT: The Untold Story of the Making of the Atomic Bomb. By Stephane Groueff. Little, Brown. \$6.95.
THE MARCH TO TUNIS: The African War 1940-1943. By Alan Moorehead. Harper & Row. \$8.50.
THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NATION. By Rembert W. Patrick. Oxford Univ. Press. \$7.50.
RENDEZVOUS AT MIDWAY: USS Yorktown and the Japanese Carrier Fleet. By Pat Frank and Joseph D. Harrington. John Day. \$5.95.
THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF 1905: The Worker's Movement and the Formation of Bolshevism and Menshevism. By Solomon M. Schwarz. Univ. of Chicago Press. \$8.95.
TUNISIA: From Protectorate to Republic. By Dwight L. Ling. Indiana Univ. Press. \$7.50.
WORKSHOPS IN THE WILDERNESS: The European Response to American Industrial-

ization 1830-1860. By Marvin Fisher. Oxford Univ. Press. \$6.

Literary Criticism

INTO THE MAINSTREAM: Conversations with Latin American Writers. By Luis Harss and Barbara Dohmann. Harper & Row. \$7.95.
THE KINGDOM OF ART: Willa Cather's First Principles and Critical Statements, 1893-1896. Edited by Bernice Slote. Univ. of Nebraska Press. \$8.95.
MILTON: The Modern Phase; A Study of Twentieth-Century Criticism. By Patrick Murray. Barnes & Noble. \$5.50.
THE SENSE OF AN ENDING: Studies in the Theory of Fiction. By Frank Kermode. Oxford Univ. Press. \$5.75.

Personal History

THE ACCIDENTAL PRESIDENT. By Robert Sherrill. Grossman. \$5.
AFFECTIONATELY YOURS, GEORGE WASHINGTON: A Self-Portrait in Letters of Friendship. Edited by Thomas J. Fleming. Norton. \$6.50.
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS. New Directions. \$6.50.
THE GROUCHO LETTERS: Letters from and to Groucho Marx. By Groucho Marx. Simon & Schuster. \$4.95.
THE MURDERERS AMONG US: The Wiesenthal Memoirs. By Simon Wiesenthal. Edited by Joseph Wechsberg. McGraw-Hill. \$6.95.
WARRIOR: The Story of General George S. Patton, Jr. By the editors of *The Army Times*. Putnam. \$5.95.

Poetry

THE LIMITS OF SYMBOLISM: Studies of Five Modern French Poets. By Bernard Weinberg. Univ. of Chicago Press. \$10.
POETRY AND EXPERIENCE. By Herbert Read. Horizon. \$4.
SELECTED POEMS. By Vernon Watkins. New Directions. Paperback, \$2.25.
STRESSES IN THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM. By Stephen Sandy. Houghton Mifflin. \$4.

Religion, Philosophy

BECOMING A PERSON IN THE WHOLE CHRIST. By Peter A. Campbell, S. J., and Edwin M. McMahon, S. J. Sheed & Ward. \$5.
THE CHRISTIAN ROLE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY. By the Right Reverend Monsignor George A. Kelly. Random House. \$4.95.
A FELLOWSHIP OF DISCONTENT. By Hans J. Hillerbrand. Harper & Row. \$6.
INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW EXISTENTIALISM. By Colin Wilson. Houghton Mifflin. Hardbound, \$4.95. Paperback, \$1.95.
KANT: Philosophical Correspondence 1759-99. Edited by Arnulf Zweig. Univ. of Chicago Press. \$7.50.
THE RED LACQUERED GATE. By William E. Barrett. Sheed & Ward. \$6.50.
THE RHINE FLOWS INTO THE TIBER: The Unknown Council. By Ralph M. Wiltgen, S.V.D. Hawthorn. \$6.95.
TEILHARD DE CHARDIN ALBUM. Edited by Jeanne Mortier and Marie-Louise Auboux. Harper & Row. \$11.95.
—Compiled by NAID SOFIAN.