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Editor's Page

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EDITOR'S PAGE

In the lead article in this issue of the Review, Mr. Justice Douglas explores an area of editorial responsibility which has been given little attention by Law Reviews—disclosure of relevant information if the author of an article has an economic interest in its publication. The editors of the Washington Law Review share Mr. Justice Douglas' concern that the economic interests of an author may affect his objectivity. We also share his view that the solution to the problem is disclosure of an author's affiliations if they are connected with the subject matter of the article.

The principle of disclosure, while easy to state, is difficult to implement. In order to implement a policy of disclosure, editors of Law Reviews must develop criteria for identifying relevant affiliations. The Washington Law Review does now adopt a policy of disclosure where an author receives direct compensation for production of an article. However, this does not include those instances in which an author may receive indirect compensation—i.e., articles which, in varying degrees, reflect a client's interest. In the latter category, we will proceed on a case by case basis. As our experience accumulates, we will be able to develop more precise standards. To assist us in our task, we would welcome the comments of our readers. In addition, we are sending copies of Mr. Justice Douglas' article to all Law Reviews in the nation, soliciting their comments and ideas. Hopefully, this inter-communication will lead to the promulgation of a uniform national Law Review policy on disclosure of the relevant affiliations of authors. Results of this survey will be published in a future issue of the Review.

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The August issue of the Review will be the third in a series of symposiums on Asian law. The first two symposiums dealt with the law of Japan and sought to survey comparatively and critically selected contemporary problems within the fields of commercial law and international transactions. Geographically, the August issue represents a departure from past issues in that our center of interest shifts to the Philippines. The distinguished authors for this symposium have attempted an analytical, historical and critical account of the growth of Philippine law and its relationship to international trade and the foreign entrepreneur. The reader will, we think, be struck by the similarities between the Philippine and the United States legal systems. There are historical reasons which explain this, but the similarity is also buttressed by the fact that problems which face modern democratic governments frequently elicit similar responses.

Of special interest is Professor Cornelius J. Peck's suggestion that the establishment of an adequate system of publication of court decisions, rules and regulations, and decisions in cases of administrative adjudication would be a worthy project for the Agency for International Development to undertake. Professor Peck suggests that such a project would sustain this country's commitment to democratic ideals and values in a more meaningful manner than spending the equivalent cost on roads, bridges and irrigation ditches.

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