Book Review. Griswold, E.N., The Fifth Amendment Today

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behind the huge cargo carriers which roll along the highways.

About four years ago, Norwalk made public a plan by which control of the firm would eventually pass to the administrative and clerical employees.

Broehl's work provides an introduction to one area of business history hitherto almost untouched by writers. It should interest those in the field of historical research who consider the interview an important source of information. There is evidence that the author encountered some difficulty in organizing his material, owing to the fact that the company has grown rapidly, largely without careful planning, and has depended upon the personal direction of a few very energetic and extremely capable leaders.

Indiana State Teachers College

R. H. Gemmecke

*The Fifth Amendment Today.* By Erwin N. Griswold. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1955, pp. x, 82. $2.00.)

This widely circulated volume by Dean Griswold of the Harvard Law School has already become influential in relation to its subject. It deals mainly, as its title in the context of contemporary events indicates, with that feature of the Fifth Amendment which confers the so-called privilege against self-incrimination. Because of the timeliness of the subject, it has been printed in both paper-backed and board-covered editions.

The book consists of three lectures, two of which were delivered before lawyers' groups and one as the Phi Beta Kappa address at Mount Holyoke College. The first and third lectures deal with the history, significance, and interpretation of the self-incrimination clause; the second deals with the concept of due process of law and its application to legislative investigations. All three lectures are written with a clarity that enhances the effectiveness of the accurate scholarship and sound judgment they express. The lay reader will find them easily comprehensible.

In an important opinion of the Supreme Court in May, 1955, dealing with procedure for invoking and giving effect to the Fifth Amendment in legislative investigations, Chief Justice Earl Warren cited the opening pages of Dean Gris-
wold's book as presumably the best available summary of the history of the privilege against self-incrimination, which goes back to the twelfth century in England. Others have spoken and written in the same vein as Dean Griswold on particular aspects of the problem of the Fifth Amendment, but probably no one else has brought together the whole congeries of related issues with equal effectiveness. Of particular significance are his striking examples of situations in which invocation of the Fifth Amendment by witnesses under questioning as to communism does not raise a valid inference of criminal guilt on their part, or even of non-criminal connections with communism. The injustice perpetrated by the stigma of "Fifth Amendment Communist" is thus vividly portrayed.

Dean Griswold does not compromise with those who would weaken hard-won constitutional guaranties in the pursuit of immediate goals, however urgent. The Fifth Amendment has value, he maintains, not only for the specific protection it affords but also as a symbol of wider aspects of procedural decency. Even though precise distinctions must be drawn in interpreting it, as must be the case whenever a principle is applied to specific situations, it serves as a constant reminder of the integrity of the individual person, which it safeguards. What stage of debasement would we have reached during the anti-Communist crusade of recent years if the constitutional absolute of the Amendment had not been there, requiring obedience? As Dean Griswold states, "It has been one thing which has held quite firm, although something like a juggernaut has pushed upon it. It has, thus, through all its vicissitudes, been a symbol of the ultimate moral sense of the community, upholding the best in us, when otherwise there was a good deal of wavering under the pressures of the times" (p. 73).

New applications of constitutional principles are needed too in times such as these. In dealing with due process of law in relation to legislative investigations Dean Griswold sets forth some of the principal reforms of committee procedures for which the protection of individuals calls. All in all, his book is a valuable guide to serious thought on some of the basic issues of our times.

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