1940

Introduction by Chairman (Symposium on Administrative Law and Procedure)

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Recommended Citation
Fuchs, Ralph F., "Introduction by Chairman (Symposium on Administrative Law and Procedure)" (1940). Articles by Maurer Faculty. 2841.
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INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

RALPH F. FUCHS†

We have planned this symposium to get down, so far as we can in a brief time, to the “brass tacks” of administrative law and procedure. For, after all, the significant problems are practical ones, relating to the effect upon specific interests of the organization and procedure of particular agencies.

All administrative agencies are specialized organizations, established by legislation to safeguard or promote certain public interests and vested with powers that affect private persons and property. The basic questions with respect to them are, first, how effectively they promote the public interests entrusted to their care and, second, what the consequences are for the private interests which they affect. Their organization and procedure are to be judged in the light of the answers to these questions.

To throw these basic questions into relief, and to furnish a background for the more specific topics that are to follow, we have scheduled the two opening subjects for tonight. From them we shall proceed tomorrow to the discussion of two significant administrative agencies. The first of these, in the morning, is the Department of Agriculture. Its widespreading activities are not the only reason for its importance, for its administrative powers embrace almost every known variety. One aspect of its procedure has recently been before the Supreme Court in one of the most famous administrative law cases of all time, Morgan v. United States. Tomorrow afternoon we shall take up the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which engages in operations that affect more people than perhaps any other agency.

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