
From the Publisher

A YEAR AGO, we began publishing *Regulation* as a response, in the editor's words, "to the extraordinary growth in the scope and detail of government regulation." It was our belief then—and is now—that the diverse forms of regulation, the range of its support and opposition, and the often confusing nature of its language make this activity difficult to monitor well and impossible to monitor completely. But we have taken large steps toward achieving the difficult in the course of our seven issues to date (this being our seventh) and may even be gaining on the impossible.

We have defined regulation broadly, taking it to mean legislative, judicial, and administrative (even treaty-making) action. Our past year's experience has demonstrated not only the vastness of our subject, but also that there are more ways of approaching it than we had thought. We have, of course, tried to keep our readers abreast of current developments in regulation and of current publications in or about the field. We also have welcomed the continuing debate provided by letters to the editor (and urge our readers to contribute to that debate). But above all, we have been pleased by the breadth and variety of our authors' articles and reports. Some have analyzed theories of regulation or even general theories of political economy that underlie theories of regulation. Some have dealt with one agency or one problem or even one regulatory event. Some have covered the process of regulating and some the process by which regulation comes into being. All, we hope, have appealed to a wide audience.

We have observed that regulation is not restricted to economics and politics, but may be concerned as well with society and culture generally. Moreover, its effects can be felt in all four areas, no matter which of them may have been its original concern. As an example, consider the *Bakke* decision—which, indeed, we will be considering extensively in our September/October 1978 issue.

Regulation enters its second year at a time of considerable ferment in the regulatory field. On the one hand, much headway has been made—certainly on the intellectual front and, to a lesser extent, on the practical front—in trying to improve the ways in which government approaches regulatory activity. For instance, we note with delight a decrease in the number of pages in the *Federal Register* for the first half of the year. Yet that decrease still leaves us with 28,804 pages. Regulations continue to pour out of federal agencies at overwhelming rates.

So, as we celebrate the first anniversary of *Regulation*, we keep well in mind the adage of Satchel Paige: "Don't look back—something may be gaining on you."

William J. Baroody, Jr.