

Book Reviews

The Present and Future of American Indians

The Indian: America's Unfinished Business. Report of the Commission on the Rights, Liberties, and Responsibilities of the American Indian. Compiled by WILLIAM A. BROPHY and SOPHIE D. ABERLE. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1966. 256 pp., illus. \$5.95.

When President Johnson mentioned the plight of the American Indian in his recent State of the Union address, it was an indication that this century-old problem is due for another attempt at solution. His own task force on Indian affairs had turned in its recommendations last December; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, under a new Commissioner, has been holding meetings with Indian groups and preparing its own recommendations for legislation. Congress, which has the final say, is still on record—in House Concurrent Resolution 108—as being in favor of terminating the special relationship existing between Indians still on reservations and the federal government as rapidly as possible, but the first experiments in that direction led to the suspension of termination policy where the consent of the tribes involved had not been obtained.

The publication of the report of the Commission on the Rights, Liberties, and Responsibilities of the American Indian thus comes at a strategic time. Initiated by the Fund for the Republic in 1957, the Commission was made up of a distinguished group of administrators, lawyers, and scholars, including O. Meredith Wilson as chairman, W. W. Keeler, A. M. Schlesinger, C. A. Sprague, K. N. Llewellyn, Soia Mentschikoff, and with the late William A. Brophy and Sophie D. Aberle, both of whom had had extensive experience in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and with Indians, as executive directors. As the most lucid and best balanced survey of the conditions of the American Indians since the report of the Merriam Survey in 1928, it should be required reading for all concerned.

The recommendations of the Com-

mission were published in summary form in 1961, when—together with President Kennedy's task force on Indian affairs and the Declaration of Indian Purpose—they led to new administrative emphasis on the development of resources on Indian reserves. But the final report does much more than justify the conclusions. Here is the whole tangled, contradictory patchwork of Indian policy and procedure laid bare. After a survey of the history of relations between Indians and the federal government, chapters are devoted to tribal governments, economic development, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, education, health, and the policies that impede Indian assimilation. Specific sets of recommendations follow each chapter, but the most important recommendation is the first one: "An objective which should undergird all Indian policy is that the Indian individual, the Indian family, and the Indian community be motivated to participate in solving their own problems. The Indian must be given responsibility, must be afforded an opportunity he can utilize, and must develop faith in himself" (p. 23).

There is no single solution to the "Indian problem," and reasonable men may argue over the specific proposals made by the Commission. But our recent experience both at home and abroad attests to the importance of the general objective. For a century or more it has been largely missing from our Indian policy despite periodic lip service. The growth of the Bureau of Indian Affairs bureaucracy has led to a greater dependence on regulations and an increasingly impersonal relationship to Indian groups. And the laws and regulations of a century of legislation are often obsolete, contradictory, and impossible to apply.

Not all Indians are alike—or have the same problems. Of the 500,000 or more Indians in the United States, only some 300,000 are on reservations or under special federal controls, and

the status of those 300,000 varies widely. The reservation superintendent needs to be given more responsibility, and the red tape that impedes most projects can surely be cut. But the most important requirement is a more flexible and decentralized policy that will involve the Indians themselves in the decisions that affect their future. On reservations where the Tribal Councils have been given some freedom in the disposition of their own funds there have been amazing changes in action and responsibility, and a growing confidence in their own abilities. The Indians need guidance and assistance in many technical matters, and especially in education, health, and economic development, but above all they ask for understanding. This volume offers a blueprint of what needs to be done in these directions, and its recommendations deserve the careful attention of our government and of our citizens as well.

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Organophosphorus Compounds

Ylid Chemistry. A. WILLIAM JOHNSON. Academic Press, New York, 1966. 398 pp., illus. \$12.50.

This is the seventh volume of Academic Press's series of monographs in organic chemistry and the second to deal with organophosphorus chemistry. (The other one was R. F. Hudson's *Structure and Mechanism in Organophosphorus Chemistry*.) Thus it is demonstrated that after decades of little activity in this field things have changed considerably. As a result of the discovery of the Wittig reaction certain classes of phosphorus organics, the ylids, and their chemical behavior are—or should be—familiar to every modern synthetic organic chemist.

The author of this very useful book begins by defining ylids and proposing for them a nomenclature which is consistent and reasonable. Part 1 deals with the ylids of phosphorus and contains sections on phosphonium ylids, the Wittig reaction, other phosphorus ylids, and iminophosphoranes. Part 2 describes ylids of other heteroatoms, specifically nitrogen ylids, arsenic and antimony ylids, and sulfur ylids. An author and a subject index conclude the book.

There are 840 literature references,