and following it by several “cases.” Case 2-1 on p. 30 consists of five short quotations (for instance, “We, the members of the Greenback party, demand cheap money”), followed by questions (“In which of these statements is ‘demand’ being used in an economic sense?”). Case 2-3 (pp. 31-33) consists of an excellent long quotation on the need and demand for physicians from the *American Economic Review* with appropriate questions. The next section introduces the concept of a demand schedule (pp. 41-46), followed by more cases. In the Warner-Fuchs course, the students prepare the answers to a large percentage of the cases out of class.

In my opinion, Warner and Fuchs are on the right track. The best way for a student to learn an idea is to apply it to a new situation. The best way for him to learn a sequence of ideas is to master each concept before going on to the next. The case method used in law and business schools and the problem-solving method used in mathematics employ these principles. Many of the cases of Warner and Fuchs are well-chosen and are helpful teaching aids. Their approach represents an advance over the familiar workbooks designed to accompany textbooks. Problems and text belong in the same volume.

Unfortunately, the Warner-Fuchs book is not likely to have the impact on teaching methods nor the widespread use that the inherent value of their approach warrants. Their space is badly allocated among subjects. Part of the book overworks the principle of getting the student to master one small piece of analysis before he goes on, part of the book underworks it. Seventy pages (one-quarter of the book) are devoted to supply and demand considered separately before they are brought together in a chapter of 30 pages. The next 55 pages get devoted to elasticity. In contrast, there are only 42 pages on marginal analysis (marginal revenue, marginal cost, marginal product, and marginal utility—any one of them would have been short-changed on the basis that space was allocated to supply and demand even if it had had the whole 42 pages). Macroeconomics gets only 59 pages (16 for the quantity equation, 43 for Keynesian economics). Creation of money by banks and instruments of Federal Reserve control, a fertile field for analytical problems, has the surface barely scratched. Despite many valuable cases, there are numerous others that would be better skipped.

Rendigs Fels

*Vanderbilt University*


In his new book, Professor Mason has given us an excellent introduction to the study of economic growth in underdeveloped areas. While Mason is mainly concerned with the role of government economic plan-
ning, most of the complex economic problems facing such areas are presented concisely but not superficially.

Mason attempts, in his words, "... to describe and explain rather than to judge ..." the relationship of business and government in the underdeveloped countries of the world. Fortunately, he is not content to describe only but, while eschewing judgment, subjects fact and opinion to critical evaluation.

Like so many students of economic growth, Professor Mason uses the history, especially the nineteenth century history, of the industrial nations as a frame of reference. Accordingly, he describes briefly the role of government during the early stages of economic development in Britain, Japan and the United States. Yet, the relevance of this experience is, in Mason's mind, uncertain. "In certain parts of the underdeveloped world it needs to be stressed that the pre-conditions of growth have not yet been met. In these areas the availability of financial resources either from domestic or foreign sources may permit the construction of impressive facilities and the transplantation of Western techniques; but without the deeper political and social changes, the initiation of a sustained growth process is dubious." (p. 38) With the possible exception of Latin America, one cannot find "... a population as prepared for economic development and industrialization as were the early nineteenth-century populations of the West." (p. 39)

The remainder of the book is devoted to presenting the case for extensive government direction of the economy and reviewing the results of economic planning in South and Southeast Asia. Throughout this discussion Mason considers separately the problems of resource expansion, resource allocation and resource management. In each category, he concludes, "It is obvious that the case [for planning] rests more strongly on the admitted deficiencies in the private sector in underdeveloped countries than on any demonstrated capacity of government to make good these deficiencies. ... As in some other fields of activity and of discourse, the best defence is the attack. In many underdeveloped countries the planners are clearly on the attack." (pp. 54, 58)

How successful the planners will be is another matter. "The tasks imposed by these development requirements ... are quite beyond the capacities of government in a number of underdeveloped countries. This is conspicuously so in some of the countries in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. ... In other countries, the task may not lie outside the capacity of government, though the problems are formidable. At the present time India appears to offer the best possibilities for a government with this capacity." (p. 58)

Mason's comments on the possibility of economic growth regardless of the degree of planning are also instructive. "Latin America is the only
part of the underdeveloped world of which it can be said that certain countries are well along toward the achievement of sustained growth. The student of economic development interested in observing the growth process in motion is well advised to repair to Latin America. In Southeast Asia and the Middle East this process is not, as yet, well begun. Africa belongs to the future.” (p. 59)

On the whole, Professor Mason's book is a sympathetic yet balanced, appraisal of planning for economic growth. However, in view of his concern with the problems of Asian countries and his repeated assertion that these countries have yet to achieve the pre-conditions of development, one may wonder why he chose to compare their public policy decisions with similar decisions made by Western governments in the nineteenth century. A more informative comparison might result if, when considering government-business relationships, an earlier period were used. Actually, no particular historical era may be relevant in this area, for, as Mason points out, “Democratic planning is something very few in the world . . .” (p. 80)

PAUL T. BECHTOL

\textit{Colorado College}


This book includes twenty-three papers presented in six programs of a Resources for the Future Forum in Washington, D.C. during early 1958. The aim of the book as stated is “to bring expert opinion to bear upon a few resource problems of wide interest and significance.” The book is organized in six sections as follows; I. The First Fifty Years, II. Science, Technology, and Natural Resources, III. Resource Demands and Living Standards, IV. Urban Growth and Natural Resources, V. Some Determinants of Resource Policy, and VI. Organizing For Conservation and Development.

The major resource problems of the United States are considered from varying points of view. Differences of opinion are readily apparent on such points as technological potentials vs. the Malthusian concept, the public vs. the private interest, wasteful consumption vs. future needs, and the place of government in resource conservation. These and other specific considerations are discussed with competence by the several authors. In some instances, individual writers show the bias of the interests they represent but there is an excellent balance among points of view.

The book is well organized and the reader with some understanding of resource conservation will reach the conclusion that a comprehensive consideration of the over-all problem has been achieved. The book is, however, a collection of independently written essays on resource conservation