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## Newman and Miller: THE CONTROL OF ATOMIC ENERGY

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## RECENT BOOKS

This department undertakes to note or review briefly current books on law and matters closely related thereto. Periodicals, court reports, and other publications that appear at frequent intervals are not included. The information given in the notes is derived from inspection of the books, publisher's literature, and the ordinary library sources.

## BRIEF REVIEWS

THE CONTROL OF ATOMIC ENERGY. By *James R. Newman* and *Byron S. Miller*. New York: McGraw-Hill. 1948. Pp. xiii, 434. \$5.

"When Congress voted the Atomic Energy [McMahon-Douglas] Act, in effect it announced the end of the institution of the sovereign national state based on the system of capitalistic free enterprise." This statement by the authors, both of whom were closely associated with the background and drafting of the act, illustrates the vast present and potential significance which it has for economic and social life in the United States. The book is a careful interpretation of the statute and an analysis of the comprehensive powers of the Atomic Energy Commission over the production, ownership, and use of fissionable material and its sources. The effect of the act is considered in connection with research and development in the field of atomic energy, industrial and commercial uses, military applications, and patent rights. The provisions for the control of information are criticized and compared to those of the Espionage Act of 1917. Through their work as White House advisers on atomic energy legislation and as counsels to the Senate Special Committee on Atomic Energy, the authors are well acquainted with the legislative history of the act and with the problems which confronted Congress in determining the nature and extent of controls and whether they should be exercised by military or civilian officials. It is pointed out that the act was drafted in anticipation of some form of international regulation, which would supplant it in many respects. The failure to conclude any such international agreement and the dismal prospects for any success in the future make it even more likely that the provisions of the act and the activities of the Commission which it creates will control a large part of our economy. This effect will increase, of course, with the development of the use of atomic energy for industrial and commercial purposes. The book contains, in addition to its thorough treatment of the Atomic Energy Act, a number of valuable appendices, including the complete texts of the act itself, the Espionage Act, and the British Atomic Energy Act of 1946; and a rudimentary explanation of the development and application of atomic energy, written by a well-known scientist.