

urging the historian to see himself clearly or actually holding the looking glass before him. Implicit in all is the theme that history incorporates so much of the historian that it behooves both writer and reader to be ever on the alert to separate the two.

Dean Acheson recently commented that, while he was secretary of state, a memorandum so persuasively written as to defy ready dissection sometimes baffled him until he had it rewritten in jargon, after which he could easily discern the deficiencies in argument. One often has the uneasy feeling while enjoying these polished pieces that something is amiss that might be recognized if only the style were not so disarmingly lucid. It is hardly necessary, however, to endow their author with superhuman accuracy or judgment to maintain that this volume should be read by anyone who seriously studies history and that it will long continue to stimulate as well as chasten practicing members of the historical guild.

University of Missouri—Columbia

Thomas B. Alexander

United States Oil Policy, 1890-1964: Business and Government in Twentieth Century America. By Gerald D. Nash. ([Pittsburgh]: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1968. Pp. ix, 286. Notes, appendix, bibliographical essay, index. \$7.95.)

Within his area of special interest, the interaction of government and the economy, Professor Nash has chosen for his latest book a particularly worthy theme—the formulation of national policy since 1890 with respect to one of the nation's most important industries. In briefest compass, the evolution he perceives is from a negative and limited initial policy of antitrust to the current one of positive and broad scale cooperation. Improved understandings on the part of science of the problems of oil finding and oil production, the industry's self-concerns, and the perceived requirements for national well being with respect to foreign and domestic matters have all contributed to this transition. In arriving at his conclusions, Nash has used intensively and well a wide range of sources.

The two principle goals of current oil policy, in the author's view, are conservation and economic stabilization. To achieve these goals, government and industry have fashioned a network of interrelations which today include federal assistance to the industry through forecasts of probable market demand, prohibition of interstate shipments of oil produced in excess of quotas prescribed by state regulatory bodies under the Interstate Oil Compact, favorable tax provisions and a tariff on imported oil to stimulate domestic exploration, research on oil finding and oil production by the United States Geological Survey and the United States Bureau of Mines, and support of American oil companies in exploration and production overseas. The author finds the first powerful push toward industry-government cooperation to have

occurred during World War I as a result of war needs. This cooperation matured subsequently in response to feared shortages and actual glut during the twenties and the New Deal era. He finds little change since World War II except in the allied field of natural gas, which earlier had been of relatively minor importance and thus had lagged in the formulation of national policy.

Nash has dealt with a large and, at times, controversial subject in a clear and notably evenhanded way. Where arguments have run hot, he has been careful to present both sides. He has also been willing to generalize and to give firm judgments. His discussion of the evolution of national oil policy does not conform to the view of some recent historians who see business interests working their will on society through the instrumentality of the national government, but he might have dealt with this point more explicitly. And on the matter of the tax depletion allowance there obviously continues to be considerably less than total consensus between industry and government.

Not the least of the merits of this book is its annotated bibliography. In his survey of the literature, Nash has pointed to opportunities for a number of more specialized studies which would both supplement and act as a check on his own. One helpful bibliographical item which escaped his net (p. 61) is Peter Reed's article on Standard Oil in Indonesia in the Autumn, 1958, issue of the *Business History Review*. And there are a few small errors, like confusing Senator Elbert Thomas with Elmer Thomas (pp. 221, 268) or reading Appalachian production in 1899 as 93 per cent of the national total instead of about 50 per cent (p. 3). But these are minor matters in a generally very useful and informative book.

University of California, Irvine

Gerald T. White

Henry A. Wallace of Iowa: The Agrarian Years, 1910-1940. By Edward L. and Frederick H. Schapsmeier. (Ames: The Iowa State University Press, 1968. Pp. xiii, 327. Illustrations, notes, select bibliography, index. \$8.95.)

Edward and Frederick Schapsmeier feel that Henry A. Wallace was remembered by historians mainly as a vice president of the United States and as a presidential candidate on the Progressive party ticket in 1948. They present a study of Wallace's career as a scientist, as a brilliant farm editor and leader, and as successful secretary of agriculture during the first eight years of Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency.

Members of the Iowa branch of the Wallace family devoted most of their lives to the problems of agriculture. Henry's grandfather started his career in Iowa as a minister, but in 1877 he gave up this calling to become a successful farmer at Winterset. Here he raised purebred livestock and applied scientific principles to his crop production. He also became well known first as a contributor and later as an editor of the *Iowa Homestead*. Henry A.'s father, Henry C., graduated from Iowa State College at Ames, specializing in