

BOOK NOTES

The Law Making Process by Michael Zander (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1979), pp. i-xxv, 1-309. Price, hardback \$15.00, ISBN 0 297 7750 5, paperback \$6.95, ISBN 0 297 77751 3.

As the author remarks in his preface, this is 'something between a book of cases and materials, on the one hand, and a textbook on the other'. It forms a part of the excellent *Law in Context* series and provides a companion volume to *Cases and Materials on the English Legal System* (3rd ed., 1980), also by Professor Zander. Professor Zander indicates that the book owes its genesis to the apparent gap in legal literature exposed in teaching a course on the English Legal System at the London School of Economics.

Two comments seem relevant. Since the work is concerned with the *English* legal system, one might expect that there would be comparatively few references to material from Australasian sources. In this respect the book outstrips expectations. References to Australasian sources are negligible. Since much of the book is concerned with judicial law making, that may reflect the author's view of the widening gap between English and Australasian judicial practice and ideology. The second comment concerns the balance of topics within the book. Though it is concerned with law making, only thirty-three pages are devoted to the legislative process. The section devoted to the interpretation of statutes by the judiciary is nearly twice as long. More than half of the book is devoted to materials on the doctrine of precedent, law reporting and the nature of the judicial role in law making. It concludes with a short section on subsidiary sources of law and another on the process of law reform in England. As a work on 'law making', it still displays a very considerable, if not overwhelming, emphasis on the work of the judiciary.

Aside from the false expectations engendered by the title, the book can be commended as a valuable reference work. The text, as one might expect, is clear and cogent. The extracted material contains much that is familiar of course. It also contains some useful extracts which are not otherwise easily accessible. There are selective references for the purpose of further research.

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The Protection of Trade Secrets by W. R. McComas, Mark R. Davison and David M. Gonski (Butterworths, Australia, 1981), pp. i-xiv, 1-98. ISBN 0 409 30028 4.

Modern technological advances in the communications field, together with increasing concern for the protection of privacy, have served to emphasize the importance of the action for breach of confidence. In view of these developments a book which is designed to 'provide assistance and understanding of the basis of and uses for the

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