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## In this issue...

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*In this issue . . .*

In this issue's lead article, Richard Singer explores contemporary prison conditions in the light of over 200 years of inhumane penal conditions and confusion about the purposes of prisons. The author looks to the growing recognition of a prisoner's right to rehabilitation and suggests a standard based on that right by which the action or inaction of prison authorities might be measured and challenged.

The recent collapse of Penn-Central's fortunes suggests a general increase in bankruptcy reorganizations. Whether the exchange of corporate securities takes place under the Federal Bankruptcy Act or the Public Utility Holding Company Act, the exchange is subject to the "fair and equitable" standard in the recognition given to claims varying in quantitative or qualitative value. In this issue's second article, John Frye analyzes certain decisions under those Acts in order to determine the effect given the "fair and equitable" standard.

In this issue's first commentary the Honorable Nicholas Johnson, Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, confronts the malaise abroad in the land today and sees consumer disenchantment as a major cause of that mood. Commissioner Johnson recognizes a general loss of faith in the system of governmental regulation, but he refuses to advocate the abolition or wholesale consolidation of the regulatory agencies. He proposes instead to revitalize the regulatory agencies by assuring them greater independence, promoting stronger public interest advocates, and granting the press freer access to information about the administrative process.

Presidential and congressional political campaigns today are virtually uninterrupted. The dust and jet exhaust had scarcely settled on the campaign trails of 1970, when a presidential candidate announced his intentions for '72. The costs of financing such extended campaigns, especially the cost of television time, are prohibitive. Schemes to put a ceiling on such expenditures and to provide free time for candidates have raised questions of equal opportunity and fairness. In the second commentary in this issue, Henry Geller, formerly General Counsel of the Federal Communications Commission, discusses these issues and proposes some modest political broadcast reforms that could be implemented without extensive legislation.

Student material in this issue covers an even broader range of subject matter than do these first four articles. Beginning with a comment on the deductibility of pre-incorporation expenses, these articles examine such issues as the right to representation during Selective Service proceedings; coal mine safety measures; the use of FBI "rap sheets;" and public aid to education. William Bassett's book review of *The French Institutionalists* completes this issue of the *Catholic University Law Review*.