

Book Reviews

UNDERMINING THE CONSTITUTION A HISTORY OF LAWLESS GOVERNMENT

(By Thomas James Norton. New York: The Devin-Adair Company. 1950
Pp XIV, 351. (\$3.00))

The most surprising thing about this book is that it was ever published at all. It is nothing more than an irrational and hysterical attack on the legislation of the late President Roosevelt. In one chapter, Roosevelt is called a communist, in another he is a fascist, and in yet another he is accused of "alienism" (whatever that is). The Tennessee Valley Authority is described as a "fascist corporation". One would hope that no self-respecting Canadian undergraduate would use either the author's arguments or the grammatical construction that contains those arguments. The book has a huge content of propaganda and inaccuracy.

It is so filled with hatred that one would suppose that the dagger or stiletto would be more appropriate to the author's purposes than the pen.

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WITNESS, Whittaker Chambers (Toronto: Random House of
Canada, Limited, 1952) 808pp. \$6.00

Published earlier this year was a book, outwardly impressive in size and design, of immediate interest to the reading public generally and of particular note to students at law because of the legal "backdrop" to the unfolding drama of nearly one-third of the book. The subject matter of **Witness** can be considered on three planes: (1) as an autobiography in itself; (2) as pointing up acutely the signal conflict of our time, communism versus the free world, with special consideration deserved by a memorable foreword which takes the form of a letter by the author to his children; (3) for its treatment of the hearings before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the Alger Hiss trials.

As the autobiography of Whittaker Chambers **Witness** relates the activities of a man who navigated the seas of communism on the surface as a member of the open Communist Party and below as an agent of a section of the Soviet Military Intelligence, operating in Washington and New York. During his career in the Communist