

Arthur T. Johnson and James H. Frey (eds.), *Government and Sport: The Public Policy Issues*. Rowman and Allanheld, Totowa, 1985. p-p. x+275. \$US38.50.

Most people have a romantic or 'apple pie' view of sport: it is an essentially pleasant activity where competitors develop and display their physical skills and learn the value of teamwork, cooperation and fairplay. Accompanying such views is the belief that the respective sports themselves should control and regulate their own affairs free of the hand of government or state intervention. However, since the 1960s and with the advent of sport as big business, and the concomitant disagreement of those participating in sports as to how the increasing revenues should be distributed, this simplistic view is no longer appropriate. Sport, especially in the United States of America, is an increasing area of litigation - for an indication of this see Robert Berry and Glenn Wong's two volume, 1150 page *Law and Business of the Sports Industries* (Auburn House, 1986) - which has forced the state to devote increasing attention to the operation and internal machinations of both professional and amateur sports.

Johnson and Frey have brought together a number of papers 'to demonstrate the great influence government has, and will continue to have, on the operation of professional and amateur sport in the United States. They also maintain that 'government policy as implemented through legislation, court decisions, and bureaucratic rules and regulations is now an even more important variable in defining the nature and dynamics of American sport' (p.ix). As Johnson and Frey themselves point out their book of readings should be regarded as a sequel to Roger Noll's collection of readings *Government and the Sports Business* (Brookings Institution, 1974).

The articles assembled by Johnson and Frey examine industrial relations in professional sports, whether or not the amateur athlete should be regarded as an employee (should injured college athletes receive workers' compensation?), women's intercollegiate sports, sports agents, violence in professional sports, challenges to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the antitrust laws and professional sports, taxation policy and sports, gambling, team relocation, and foreign policy issues in sports. Two differences between this volume and that of Noll should be noted. Whereas

Noll primarily focused on issues pertaining to the economics of professional team sports, Johnson and Frey mainly concentrate on legal issues and have incorporated articles on amateur and college athletics. One issue which could have been examined is that of race and sport, at either and/or the professional and college level (Noll included a chapter by Scully on discrimination in baseball).

The various articles highlight the fluid nature of the relationship between sport and the law. The respective authors vary amongst themselves as to the appropriate form of state intervention. Depending on the issue, different authors believe that the appropriate arm of the state should be the legislature, the courts, or governmental regulatory agencies. The chapters make for interesting reading and are preceded by a more than useful introduction by the editors (though their conclusion falls somewhat flat). The only major problem with the volume, and the latter chapters in particular, is the use of the term 'public interest'. No attempt is made to define or discuss the problems inherent with this term. Each of the writers concerned seem to assume that the public interest is synonymous with whatever it is that they are advocating or recommending. The problem with this approach is that virtually all individuals and organisations as a matter of course assert public interest arguments in seeking to advance and protect self interest.

The volume brought together by Johnson and Frey is a valuable contribution to the growing literature on sports, and contains many useful ideas (and bibliographical material) which could be usefully explored and developed by those who undertake sports research in Australia.

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