

and Walsh; Reisse; Stollow), seven- (von Bredow, Friebolin, and Kabuss), and eight- (Anet) membered carbocyclic and heterocyclic systems is discussed theoretically and in relation to new experimental results. Timely reviews of other important topics are also very welcome. These include *ab initio* conformational analysis (Lehn), the examination of competitive pathways in conformational analysis (McKenna), stereochemical aspects of amine quaternization (Fodor, Mandava, Frehel, and Cooper), solvolysis reactions (Felkin), hypervalent molecules (Musher), carbonium ions (Schleyer), steroids (Bucourt), cyclodepsipeptides (Ivanov and Ovchinnikov), carbohydrates (Onodera), paraffins (Pucci, Aglietto, Luisi, and Pino), and catenanes (Schill).

This brief survey does not do justice to the scholarly character of most of these papers. The monograph is an important contribution to the chemical literature.

W. D. OLLIS

For Want of 0.016d

The Price of Amenity: Five Studies in Conservation and Government. By Roy Gregory. Pp. xvi+319. (Macmillan: London, 1971.) £8.00.

THIS is an important book for two reasons. First, it is a clear and balanced account of the ontogeny of decision-making in five cases of conflict between "developers" and "conservationists". On one side are arrayed a firm wanting to mine iron ore in Oxfordshire, the Central Electricity Generating Board wanting to put a generating station in the Nottingham green belt, a river authority wanting to build a reservoir in upper Teesdale, the Gas Council wanting to deliver North Sea gas on to the Norfolk coast, and the Southern Gas Board wanting to plant a tall gasometer in Abingdon. On the other side are arrayed the general public, preservation societies, naturalists, and local authorities, defending their sites against the encroachment of tech-

nological society. In each of the five cases the decision-making process began with rational argument based on careful calculations. But it soon became evident that feelings would carry more weight than facts in the final round of decision-making. The confrontation between the exploiter and those who resist him is analysed with refreshing lucidity. The issues are easy to describe and very difficult to resolve. They are: (i) How much are we prepared to pay for amenity (to keep mining out of Oxfordshire, to protect the flora of upper Teesdale, to preserve the skyline of Abingdon)? (ii) How do we calculate what amenity is worth in pecuniary terms? (iii) Who are "we"? The government, or the local authority, or the man-in-the-street?

Mr Gregory demonstrates that the answers to these questions cannot be given in advance of the decision-making. After the decision has been made it is sometimes possible to say how much it has cost to save a site from the developers. Thus it was asserted that to put a generating station at Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham, would save £600,000 a year compared with running costs at other sites; equivalent to a change of 0.016 of a pre-decimal penny per unit of electricity. In the event the conservationists won: the generating station was built elsewhere. This means that in those circumstances, "we" were prepared to pay this higher price for electricity in order to preserve the strip of green belt near Nottingham. Also, when the conservationists lose, as they did at Cow Green in upper Teesdale, it is possible to quote a value (namely the extra cost of putting a reservoir on some other site on the Tees) which "we" were not prepared to pay for saving the scenic and botanical amenities of Cow Green. And, in recent years, "we" have grown from a small lobby of people who cherished the spirit of Blake and Cobbett to a massive public opinion determined to preserve the British countryside.

Mr Gregory's account is admirably fair and it should dispel the common misconception that the developer is always a philistine and the conservationist an altruist. Those who undertake massive industrial development, especially if they are public corporations providing electricity, water, or gas, owe it to the public to optimize their costs. But one of the inputs they include in their calculations is an estimate of what it will cost to choose the less beautiful, but also less suitable, site. Confrontation occurs when the developer believes that the estimate for choosing the less suitable site is too high, and the public, who may not have to bear the higher cost, challenge this belief. The public are, however, at a disadvantage in these confrontations, because they do not have access to the data on which the developer's calculations are made; and they are evaluating amenity.

There is no doubt that case histories of the kind Mr Gregory presents in this book are the best way to illuminate those very important processes of decision-making which begin with masses of technological data and cost-benefit analyses and end with what one might call "informed hunches". This is the second reason why Mr Gregory's book is important. It is a model of the way to teach students the art of technological decision-making. In Alvin Weinberg's words, it is a casebook for "mission-oriented" as contrasted with "discipline-oriented" study. Many students, both arts-based and science-based, will be involved in this sort of decision-making all their lives, in industry or in public corporations or in government. At present they find little in their undergraduate courses which prepares them for this style of thinking. They, and their teachers, should be encouraged to read this book. It is a pity that its price is so unreasonably high. If this is due to the maps, the publishers should be encouraged to bring it out as a paperback without maps.

ERIC ASHBY

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