



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

U.S. trade and payments problem. The reviewer feels that this volume provides the general public and students of international trade and finance with the most provocative information of its type available.

McGehee H. Spears

Rural Land Tenure in the United States

Edited by Alvin L. Bertrand and Floyd L. Corty. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge. 313 pages. 1962. \$7.50.

LAND TENURE conditions in the United States and problems associated with them hardly stand still long enough in these days of rapid change to permit a portrait to be drawn. But, in *Rural Land Tenure in the United States*, Bertrand, Corty, and a group of 10 associates have made the needed effort. The authors were affiliated with the former Southwest Land Tenure Research Committee which sponsored the volume.

The work appears to be intended primarily as a text for students. A broad spectrum of topics in the field of tenure is presented. These range from the legal principles of leasing, through a review of present tenure patterns and trends, to a discussion of public policies affecting land tenure and the needs and techniques of tenure research.

As a means of "presenting tenure problems in their total social aspect," each chapter has been written or reviewed by both economists and sociologists. An attempt has been made to introduce an integrative conceptual frame derived largely from sociology, but the success of this varies with

so many authors being involved. As a result, the reviewer deems the book more valuable for the merit and information of its individual chapters than for any degree of uniqueness as an integrated whole.

In a summary chapter on tenure research needs the authors give a perceptive list of 21 areas and trends that currently are "being looked into or need looking into." To the reviewer, a disappointment of the book is that many of the topics on this list are barely mentioned elsewhere in the work. For example, the list includes "tenure problems of minority groups." However, there is only passing mention elsewhere of the exceptional tenancy status of Negro farmers, despite the body of census data available and the far reaching effect on the future of the Negro farmer that current tenure changes are having. The subjects "minority group" and "Negro" do not appear in the index.

Similarly, although the "impact of Federal action programs on tenure" is listed as a research need, the text gives only an unpointed history of production control and soil bank programs without presenting existing knowledge or thoughts about the effects of these programs on tenure.

Withal, *Rural Land Tenure in the United States* fills a need for many teachers and is a useful general reference. It should also be an encouraging reminder to other regional committees working on socioeconomic projects that it is possible to produce a monographic study from the oftentimes tedious process of the regional committee system.

Calvin L. Beale