

## BOOK NOTES

**Utah and Queensland Coal: A Study in the Micro Political Economy of Modern Capitalism and the State** by *Brian Galligan*  
(University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 1989) pp. xxii + 268, paper \$24.95, ISBN 0 7022 2190 2

This book is concerned with the exploitation of the coal deposits in the Bowen Basin of Queensland. More specifically it is the story of the Utah Development Company and its activities. However, it is not a narrow business history: Galligan is concerned with the issue of corporate capitalism and the relationship with, and policies of, Commonwealth, state and local government.

DPD

**The Politics of Power: Inside Australia's Electric Utilities** by *Stephen Rosenthal and Peter Russ*  
(Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1988) pp. viii + 351, paper \$24.95, ISBN 0 522 84264 X

The electricity industry has a number of important backward and forward linkages to other sectors of the economy: coal mining, smelting, industrial production and home consumption activities. Furthermore, it has been associated with a number of important environmental issues, such as the flooding of Lake Pedder in Tasmania, and industrial relations (particularly in Queensland) have been turbulent. This book is " . . . about the need for reform in the Australian electric power industry. It is about the inefficiencies of the electric utilities, the way that governments have failed to provide the necessary leadership and sometimes even contributed to the industry's problems, and about the actions necessary to bring about a more accountable industry" (p. 4).

DPD

**Decisions and Organizations** by *J.G. Marsh*  
(Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1988) pp. vi + 458, cloth \$75.00, ISBN 0 631 15812 X

James Marsh is best known for his pioneering work with Richard Cyert on organisational theory. This book contains nineteen previously published papers (many co-authored) by Marsh on organisations. There is also a 24-page introduction by Marsh. The papers are divided into four parts: 'The allocation of attention', 'Conflict in organizations', 'Adaptive rules' and 'Decision-making under ambiguity'. The flavour of some of this work can be discerned from the

following: "Organized anarchies are organizations characterised by problematic preferences, unclear technologies, and fluid participation. Recent studies of universities, a familiar form of organized anarchy, suggest that such organizations can be viewed for some purposes as collections of choices looking for problems, issues and feelings looking for decision situations in which they might be aired, solutions looking for issues to which they might be an answer, and decision-makers looking for work. These ideas are translated into an explicit computer simulation model of a garbage can decision process" (p. 294).

**DPD**