FROM THE EDITORS

Atmospheric pollution is one of the most urgent problems confronting this and other industrialized nations today. Serious injury to health and damage to property is presently occurring, and conditions of even graver consequence may be forecast if responsible action is not taken immediately.

As awareness of the air pollution problem and work toward its solution have increased, a considerable body of technical literature has evolved. Despite general agreement that the problem demands legal regulation, however, there remains a dearth of material concerning the role of law in air pollution control.

In this student-written Symposium on Air Pollution the *Law Quarterly* attempts to analyze generally the problems of governmental regulation of air pollution at all levels. For those unfamiliar with the technical aspects of air pollution, the symposium begins with a very basic consideration of the nature, sources and causes of contamination and possible abatement techniques. Successive notes discuss existing and proposed legislation and the effectiveness, appropriateness, and limitations of regulatory programs at the municipal, state, interstate, and federal levels. The last of these includes an explanation and evaluation of the Air Quality Act of 1967, the new federal program.

The economic problem of implementing air quality standards remains one of the most serious impediments to successful regulatory programs. As the conclusion to this Symposium, the *Law Quarterly* is pleased to present the proposal of Robert E. Kohn for a minimum cost method of achieving air quality goals. Through the use of a simplified model, this article explains the operation of a much more complex approach to air quality control developed through research conducted under grants from the Public Health Service of the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare.