

THINKING ABOUT CRIME. By James Q. Wilson. Vintage, 1977. 260 pp. \$1.95

Wilson, a professor of government at Harvard and a member of many task forces and commissions on law enforcement, shares his thinking about crime and about the human nature of criminals. Most of his recommendations deal with what he calls "predatory crime for gain" (robbery, burglary, larceny, and auto theft). He does not discuss "white-collar" criminals or, except for heroin addiction, "victimless" crimes. All of what he has to say is based on his conviction that "wicked people exist. Nothing avails except to set them apart from innocent people. And many people, neither wicked nor innocent, but . . . calculating of their opportunities, ponder our reaction to wickedness as a cue to what they might profitably do."

THE ACADEMIC REVOLUTION. By Christopher Jencks and David Riesman. Univ. of Chicago, 1977. 580 pp. \$7.95

In a foreword written for the latest edition of this 1968 book, Martin Trow comments on the concern its authors show for "the tension between specialized knowledge and liberal education." He notes their belief that "the best undergraduate education can be found where that tension has not been resolved." Jencks and Riesman feared that the balance was tipping too far toward specialization at the expense of liberal studies. A decade later, Trow asks, would they fear for the fate of both specialized and liberal studies amid the surge of vocational and pre-professional courses "that make

claims to neither 'breadth' nor 'depth'?" Other questions will occur to new readers; much has happened to make sections of the book seem dated and almost innocent. It remains, however, an outstanding analysis of American higher education.

INTERNATIONAL ARMS CONTROL: Issues and Agreements. Edited by John H. Barton and Lawrence D. Weiler. Stanford, 1976. 444 pp. \$12.95 (cloth, \$18.50)

Designed as a text for an undergraduate course at Stanford University, this first comprehensive study of contemporary international armaments control should prove useful to scholars in many fields—and to worried citizens. The principal focus of the book is on strategic nuclear arms. But it also covers conventional arms and nuclear proliferation and has important sections on the historical, economic, and legal dimensions of arms limitations.

THE WESTERN APPROACHES: Poems 1973-75. By Howard Nemerov. Univ. of Chicago reprint, 1977. 110 pp. \$3.95

Sixty-nine original works and two translations (of Rilke and Dante). This reprint is worth the price if only for one seven-line poem entitled "Origin." In it, Nemerov, former poetry consultant for the Library of Congress and master of many short, structured forms of poetic discourse, writes about how language began. Who had the credit of it? he asks. *Gods, men, devils, elves? / . . . "We got together one day," they said/ "And talked it over among ourselves."*