

by half during the period 1966–76) has been passed on to consumers in the form of higher-priced goods; they, in turn, have sought inflated wages to pay for them.

**ARABIA, THE GULF  
AND THE WEST**

by J. B. Kelly  
Basic, 1980  
530 pp. \$25

Most recent books about the Arab states have either been narrow, scholarly treatises lacking in immediacy or “quickies” published to capitalize on the latest flare-ups in the Middle East. This account is one of the first to offer timely and substantial histories of each of the Persian Gulf States. But it will be hotly debated. Historian Kelly sees the Arab world as the primitive domain of dynastic rivalries, antipathies among Muslim sects, and tribal vendettas. The industrial world, he writes, has been left dependent on the good will of a handful of “militarily insignificant” states with long cultural and religious traditions of animosity toward the Christian West. Kelly asserts that the Arabs’ oil revenues—more than \$200 billion in 1979—have been squandered. In Saudi Arabia and the Shah’s Iran, excessive amounts have been spent on sophisticated weaponry; costly new hospitals and schools cannot be properly staffed. While the West engages in diplomacy amid a “deadly lethargy,” he warns, Soviet behavior in the Middle East bears “all the hallmarks of . . . imperial Russia.” Useful data in a controversial package.

**THE POLITICS OF  
REGULATION**

edited by James Q. Wilson  
Basic, 1980  
468 pp. \$18.95

Businessmen seek relief from what they see as overzealous government regulation. Surprisingly, many consumers favor deregulation too, but for a different reason. They believe that most regulatory agencies have been “captured” by the industries they are supposed to control. Neither view is quite accurate, contends Wilson. In 10 informative essays, he and nine other political scientists examine the workings of a few state power commissions and several federal regulatory agencies. The latter include, among others, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Food and Drug Adminis-

tration, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They find that an agency's actions are most often the result of employee motives. Agencies are staffed by "careerists," whose job ambitions reside entirely within the agency; by "politicians," who aspire to higher elective or appointive office; and by "professionals," lawyers, economists, or scientists who expect to advance to positions in the industries or professions they regulate. When an agency—the Federal Maritime Commission, for example—is dominated by careerists, it aims to avoid both industry complaints and headline-catching negligence that would lead to department shakeups. When politicians are in control, as was the case with the early EPA, headlines are sought, and a flurry of controversial and divisive rules to please consumers are adopted. An agency such as the FTC, led by professionals out to make names for themselves, will be aggressive in making rules and prosecuting offenders. Yet another factor exposes all agencies to the ire of "victimized" businessmen and "neglected" consumers or workers, adds Wilson—that is, the sheer size of regulatory undertakings. OSHA, for example, employs 80 percent of its staff to inspect workplaces, but only manages to cover about 2 percent of them each year.

#### *Arts & Letters*

**NATHANIEL  
HAWTHORNE IN  
HIS TIMES**  
by James R. Mellow  
Houghton, 1980  
684 pp. \$19.95

When Nathaniel Hawthorne married in 1842, he rented the Concord, Mass., house where his landlord, Ralph Waldo Emerson, had earlier written his famous essay "Nature." In an act of neighborliness, Emerson had a young protégé plant a vegetable garden for the newlyweds. The amateur gardener was, of course, Henry David Thoreau. Later in life, Hawthorne (1804–64) doubted whether he had "ever really talked with half a dozen persons in [his] life." In this engaging biography, we glimpse him dashing out the back door as visitors enter the front yard; yet his reputation as a recluse seems overblown. Mellow, an art