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*Franklin D. Roosevelt: The Ordeal*, and the editor's own *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1940*. This is a book aimed at high school and college students and will prove a timesaver to overworked reference librarians who put together reserve bookshelves. The introduction, however, is a skimpy one and the volume contains little or no information on the contributors. A pathetic bibliography is appended. American Profiles series. (5/? LC: 67-17058)

Levi, Isaac. *GAMBLING WITH TRUTH*. Knopf \$7.95.

A philosopher once remarked that there was no *a priori* reason for assuming that the truth, when found, would be interesting. Isaac Levi, a philosopher of science trained in the tradition of Ernest Nagel and Sidney Morgenbesser of Columbia University, goes one better and suggests that were truth-and-nothing-but-the-truth the sole desideratum in scientific inquiry, science would be dull indeed. The scientist would be a skeptic who essentially suspends judgment. He could be caricatured like the Wall Street forecaster who says, "Either the market will go up, or it will go down, or it will remain the same." Instead Levi states that while truth is an essential goal in scientific pursuits, the scientist is also willing to take risks, entertaining the possibility of error in deciding what particular conclusions can be drawn from evidence in order to "replace agnosticism by true belief." Levi formally develops criteria for inductive inference: rules for choosing which options are "best," where best has an information-content utility value; rules for the acceptance of certain answers over others, and so on. The rigor of his methods presupposes a knowledge of Boolean algebra, point-set topology, probability and measure theory, and a reasonable grounding in alternate theories, notably "naive cognitivism" and "behavioralism." Levi's own brand of idealized "critical cognitivism" has an intuitive appeal, and his examples and general exposition are always lucid. Special. (5/22. LC: 67-10712)

Lewis, Richard Warren & Lawrence Schiller. *THE SCAVENGERS AND CRITICS OF THE WARREN REPORT: The Endless Paradox*. Delacorte \$4.95.

Writer Lewis and investigator Schiller travelled 18,000 miles to interview witnesses to the assassination, apply this new research to lancing the pretensions and postulations of those who have risen up against the findings of the Warren Commission. When they deal with charges, they counter with reasonably reassuring evidence; when they deal with the naysayers themselves, they unfortunately resort to dingy yellow journalism (Mark Lane offered "an easily digestible panacea to an incredulous audience still reeling from the reaction of November 22-24, 1963".... Penn Jones, the fifty-two-year old editor, "scuttled" etc.), emphasizing the profit-and-glory seeking motives of "scavengers and critics." They practice this treatment across the board from Edward Jay Epstein, accused of the very carelessness he attributed to the Commission, to George Thomson, with his twenty-two shot, LBJ theory. As to the evidence, they take up the question of identity, film frames and FBI interference, of conspiracy, the implication of the police, the validity of amateur re-enactments, etc. and argue to some point. They remind that the Report consisted only of material used as evidence, not that considered. Doubts, they feel, are fed by the fact that the Commission disbanded, failing to provide an instrument for official rebuttal, and "a psychological disinclination to believe" (assistant counsel Liebel). It is a pity that the Commission could not have been championed and defended with greater dignity. (4/26)