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Upon Information and Belief

Dicta Editorial Board

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DICTA

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Calendar

- Sept. 22-26—American Bar Association annual meeting, Cleveland, Ohio.
- Oct. 6—Denver Bar Association, regular monthly meeting, 12:15 P. M., Chamber of Commerce dining room.
- Oct. 16—District Judges' Association annual meeting, County Judges' Association meeting, District Attorneys' Association meeting, Board of Governors meeting, Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs.
- Oct. 17-18—Colorado Bar Association annual meeting, Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs.

Upon Information and Belief

Being a column of editorial comment and rumors which, thank Heaven, is not required by Judge Kettering's rules to be signed and verified by the person making the allegations.

Paul Revere Rides Again—Who Hears Him This Time?

Paul Revere—yes, many Paul Reveres—are riding today, warning the countryside that the enemies who seek to destroy the supremacy of law and the rule of the people—have landed. Arthur Vanderbilt, Carl Rix, Bolitha Laws, and many other Paul Reveres of this day, are warning us to form our lines, to guard every road over which the enemy might pass, to strengthen our defenses, to repair our breaches, and to stop every enemy who would pass into the area of defense, so that the enemy may be stopped before he gains a foothold in our country. The minute men who should be hearing Paul and putting on the battle dress are the members of the bar—in whose hands since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary have been the task of writing and interpreting laws, of forming government, and of protecting the sacred rights of the people. Are our lawyer minute men of this day hearing the call to arms, putting on their battle garbs and rushing to the defense of democracy, or are they sitting in their law offices collecting five dollar fees while Paul Revere rides by unheeded?

In Colorado, do the lawyers realize the dangers existing in our very inadequate and incompetent system of legislation? By virtue of this antiquated system, laws are passed which the legislators neither understand nor comprehend the effects of. Laws are so defectively passed as to lead to grave

doubts of their validity. Laws are piled upon laws, with no attempt to amend, repeal, or otherwise weed out the laws which have been superseded, leaving our statutes a jumble of uncodified, poorly arranged, confusing inconsistent words. Lawmaking duties are passed on to administrative agencies with no thought as to how the agencies make laws, whether or not such laws—or regulations—are consistent with public welfare, or whether or not the public can know of them.

Are the lawyers awake to the fact that administrative agencies are being extended continuously—agencies which may make rules having the effect of law, without being required to give any notice that such rules are in effect—agencies in which one person may act as both rule maker, prosecutor and judge?

Are the lawyers willing to assume leadership and responsibility in having considered adequately by the voters those proposed changes in our state constitution which have been urged for a long time as being desirable improvements, but about which nothing has been done yet?

Are the lawyers aware of the large number of persons giving legal advice without authorization of law, and with great danger to the persons who might rely on such advice?

Are we lawyers willing to undertake the task of leadership in correcting these impossible conditions, and save the practice of law and the standing of the lawyers, or are we so anxious for the five dollar fees that we are willing to allow the practice of law and the leadership of lawyers to become as dead as Paul Revere's horse now is?

Regarding the Board of Governors

Pending the arrival of the integrated bar in Colorado, it would seem appropriate to introduce into our state bar organization anything which has been found to be of advantage in any other bar organization and which might make the Colorado Bar Association a better and more effective bar organization. It is often said that one of the advantages of the integrated bar is that it is truly representative of the bar of the state because the governors or commissioners are elected by the members of the bar. This sounds like good sense, but it is not necessary to have an integrated bar to have the board of governors elected by the members. There is no reason why each local bar organization affiliated with the Colorado Bar Association should not elect its members on the board of governors of the Colorado Bar Association. This should improve the effectiveness of the board of governors, because the governors would then derive their authority directly from the members of the association, and would probably be better qualified to speak for the members than they are now, when many of them are not elected by the members, but are appointed. The representation of the members in such a case is too remote and indirect. The members of the board of governors should be elected by the members of the local bar associations.

The liaison between the board of governors and the members should be improved. When any action has been taken by the board or the officers of the association, that fact should be made known as soon as feasible to the members of the association, either by a report at the annual meeting, or through the pages of Dicta. The members of the association know too little of what goes on in the board of governors meetings. If they were better informed, the board might have more cooperation from the members in putting over the programs laid out by the board.

In this issue of Dicta we introduce a new feature which we hope will become permanent. There is a report of the secretary-treasurer of the Denver Bar Association. Not only should this become an annual feature, but similar reports should appear at regular intervals from the board of governors and officers of the Colorado Bar Association, and the officers and committees of the various associations.

Are You Using the Right Paper?

The rules of the Denver District Court require papers filed in civil cases to be "of white linen or bond, eight and one-half inches by fourteen inches of unglazed surface and in weight at least six pounds to five hundred sheets."

The rules of the Denver County Court require papers to be "upon legal cap paper (8½ by 14) . . . The paper used shall be of white linen or bond, of unglazed surface, and in weight approximately six and one-fourth pounds to five hundred sheets".

The rules of the United States District Court in Denver require, "the paper used for pleadings and other documents filed in court, shall be approximately eight by fourteen inches in size, and in weight seven pounds for each five hundred sheets".

Query 1—Must every lawyer's office keep three kinds of stationery to comply with the three court rules?

Query 2—Assuming that one can get by with eight and one-half by fourteen inch paper in the Federal Court, so that he can use eight and one-half by fourteen inch paper in all courts, where can he buy eight and one-half by fourteen inch paper without having it especially cut to order, in view of the fact that all stationery stores consider standard legal paper to be eight and one-half by thirteen inches?

Too Many Laws

According to the Chicago Bar Record, in 1818, Governor Reynolds, of Illinois, asserted that there were too many laws, that they were often contradictory and conflicting, and that it was with much difficulty that any one knew what laws were in force.

Wouldn't Governor Reynolds enjoy being in Colorado today, and learning about the lack of change in this respect to this day.

Agreement Between Wisconsin Bar and Collection Agencies

The State Bar Association of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Association of Bonded Collection Agencies have entered into an agreement defining the field of collection agencies and setting up a committee to administer the agreement.

Texas Secretary of State Cooperates

The Secretary of State of Texas has put into use in his office the following form letter:

The information you requested in your letter of..... requires technical legal advice. It is the policy of this office not to give legal advice of any kind. We, therefore, suggest that you consult your attorney about this matter.

Please feel free to call upon us at any time if we may help you in some other way.

Denver Institute

John Isekore (pronounced I-seek-ore—it's a pun, son), fifty year old mining engineer died at noon on June 7, the day before he intended to embark on a trip to South America where he hoped to find the fortune which would make him and his family financially independent. He left a 40-year-old widow, Ada, a 21 year old son, Donald, an 18 year old son, Carl, now in military service overseas, and an adopted daughter, Bertha, 16. Even though the death was quite sudden and unexpected, his family was saved from financial disaster because he had just executed that morning his will, drafted by several experts in estate planning: Morrison Shafroth, Denver attorney; Hugh McLean, trust officer of the Colorado National Bank; Berton T. Gobble, Inheritance Tax Commissioner; and Edward C. King, dean of the university of Colorado law school. His demise was not long mourned by 300 members of the Colorado bar who permitted Pierpont Fuller, Denver attorney, to seize upon the estate that same afternoon and administer it for the edification of the members of the bar, and with the help in the preparation of the various tax returns of T. Raber Taylor, Denver attorney. Mr. "I-seek-ore" left an estate of approximately \$80,000, in trust for his wife and children under the will executed but a few moments before his death.

Concurrently with Mr. "I-seek-ore's" death, the 300 lawyers who had listened to the experts plan his estate in the morning, and who were to listen to the other experts administer his estate in the afternoon, were enjoying luncheon and listening to Denver County Judge C. Edgar Kettering tell them what they were doing wrong in administering estates.

The day concluded with a dinner enjoyed by the lawyers and their ladies in the Lincoln room of the Shirley-Savoy Hotel, Denver. Milton J. Keegan, reversing the procedure at the noon luncheon, presented the persons