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the broad powers conferred upon them. The McCarran-Sumners bill is only the beginning, but an important beginning, in establishing the rule of law in this important branch of the government. It is indicative of the task which falls upon us as lawyers to prevent our government of laws from becoming a government of men. In the present crisis, the great social and economic changes directly challenge free government by free men. The preservation of our constitutional democracy in these times requires vision, wisdom and determination as great as were necessary for its establishment. In this struggle to maintain order, justice and freedom, we must not, shall not, fail.

Lawyers Are People †

By MALCOLM W. BINGAY *

The Bingay Institute of Human Relations, after some years of research, has definitely decided that lawyers are people. While this may be startling news to some ignorant or prejudiced persons it come as no surprise to me. Some of my best friends are lawyers. I attribute this to the fact that I have never had a law suit.

In a mild sort of a way, I have been interested in the study of law myself. Forty-five years of activity in journalism have made this necessary as a defense mechanism. In my salad days as a reporter and child-city-editor lawyers used to frighten me terribly with their Latin jargon, which I never could understand. Years later, I found that that was why they used it. I learned that the less Latin a lawyer used in threatening to punch my nose the better lawyer he was.

I always had a sneaking suspicion that they were just putting on dog. I had read the whole Constitution of the United States and had found it all written in very simple English.

While it was the great Coke who spoke of "the gladsome light of jurisprudence," it was the toast of Wilbraham a generation later which spoke of "the glorious uncertainties of the law." I do not know much about the gladsome light of jurisprudence in recent years after reading some decisions of our United States Supreme Court, but I see that the glorious uncertainties of the law have grown more glorious.

Hire a Tax Expert

If Coke is also right that "reason is the life of the law; nay the common law itself is nothing else but reason" why not just hire a tax expert in the first place and then see where you can get a stand-in with some bureaucrat who administers the rules and regulations without benefits of the courts?

Something must be nutty because I find little reason in what is passing

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for law these days. If it were an engineering job the engineer would say, "Let's wipe it off the slate and start all over again." But you cannot do that in law—or at least there was a time you couldn't. Now nobody knows what the law is until the latest judge says what it is and then he's stuck with it.

But, then, I'm supposed to be writing about lawyers and not about the law. Of all the professions I have gummed up in seeking to explain them to others, I have the greatest sympathy for the lawyer. The attorney is the most misunderstood of all professional men. This is because of the very nature of his practice.

As soon as the lawyer takes a case he becomes an advocate of a side, a cause. This wins him the enmity of the opposing client. Therefore, if he wins he makes an ingrate of one and an enemy of the other. If he loses, he has two enemies. That is why so many lawyers become misanthropes and develop persecution complexes. They might escape all this anguish if it were not for the fact that they are open prey for all punsters, gag writers and other low comics.

"An Honest Lawyer"

Some years ago while motoring through rural England I was taken to the court house of a little village. It had been built in the twelfth century. Carved in wood over the doorway was the truncated figure of a man carrying his head under his arm. Underneath were the words, "An Honest Lawyer." For some centuries, I was told, the great legal lights of the Kingdom tried to get that insult removed but to no purpose. So finally they just ignored it.

Now these jibes are not fair to the lawyer. He is an honest man. If he were not, the grievance committee of any bar association would have him disbarred. The very fact that he is allowed to practice is testimony to his integrity and his honor if not his sagacity.

And where people will disagree, it stands to reason that they must have lawyers to fight their cases for them. I remember, as though it were yesterday, just such a case. It was before the late great Judge George Hosmer, as gentle a soul and as keen a mind as ever blessed the law with justice and wit.

Would Try Case Himself

A low, rough, illiterate fellow was suing another man for alienating his wife's affections (sic). He had a young lawyer who spent the afternoon battling with his client to keep him quiet. The following morning the complainant appeared without counsel. He announced to Hosmer that he was going to try the case himself.

"I fired my lawyer," he explained.

"Dear me," sighed the Judge, "this is an unusual procedure. Are you quite sure you can handle this case yourself?"

"You bet I can!"

"Well, I have my doubts, but we'll see how it goes. Who do you wish called as the first witness?"

The fellow named the man he was suing. The accused took the stand and was sworn. The complainant rushed up to the witness box and shook his fist under the nose of the supposed Don Juan.

"Where were you last Thursday afternoon at four o'clock?"

"You're a damn dirty liar!" yelled back the witness.

"Here, here!" protested Hosmer, "I didn't think it would work."

Lawyers Are Necessary

So, you see, I agree that lawyers are necessary. So are plumbers and truck drivers and newspaper editors. We all like to believe that we are doing big and vital tasks in this world. If we didn't we wouldn't amount to much.

There are moods when all of us rise to the heights and sink to the depths. All the frailties and faults of all other professions and other walks of life are to be found among lawyers. And yet, in looking back through the golden years of friendship with many fine legal minds and great jurists who have passed on to the Greater Court, I can sense that they possessed in their very souls the essence of the law laid down by Sidney Smith;

"Truth is the handmaiden of justice, freedom is its child, peace is its companion, safety walks in its steps, victory follows in its train; it is the brightest emanation from the gospel; it is the attribute of God."

St. Patrick, Lawgiver †

By JOHN P. O'HARA *

Two citizens, plainly embarged on a holiday, excitedly argued on a street corner. It was the 17th of March. First citizen was loudly shouting, "I knews a man in Ireland who could jump 27 feet." The second heatedly replied, "There never was a man in Ireland or any other place who could jump 27 feet." The first repeated his assertion, the other denied it vehemently. The exchange continued in identical vein for several more rounds. Then second citizen still beligerently unconvinced, demanded, "Very well, if there was such a man, what was his name?" First citizen with a catlike smirk, replied, "He was your father." Whereupon the other expanded his chest, broke out a big smile and exclaimed, "Oh sure, he could do that."

Even though this article is concerned with St. Patrick and his association with law, the foregoing preface should be permissible. Observance of the day is generally regarded as a celebration, but oddly enough it commemorates the

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* Of the Detroit Bar.