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Colorado Bar Sponsors Traffic Court Conferences

BY H. LAWRENCE HINKLEY*

The administration of traffic law is obviously a subject in which the members of the bar should be interested. The advent of the motor vehicle and the motor highway systems, which now spiderweb the nation, has placed upon the states, counties and municipalities the problem of control of traffic, which is today one of the nation's greatest civic problems—greater than the problem of fire, for it annually takes more lives and destroys more property, and greater than crime for it may involve every man, woman or child who walks or rides as a possible victim of traffic.

The urgency of improving traffic law enforcement is evident from the revelation that even under present restrictions traffic deaths throughout the country have exceeded our combat deaths on all fronts by 23% during the first two years of the war. Certainly, any problem which deals so intimately with the lives and basic rights of so many people as traffic enforcement does should be an object of the bar's solicitude.

Many Colorado judges and lawyers are becoming interested in the promotion of traffic safety through efforts to improve the administration of traffic enforcement. The Colorado Bar Association, through its Committee on Traffic Courts, and the local bar associations, have just completed a series of thirteen district conferences on traffic courts and traffic law enforcement. The meetings were arranged pursuant to a resolution of the Colorado State Traffic Courts Conference, held in Denver on January 11, 1944, and sponsored by the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations, the Law Club, the Junior Bar Conference of the American Bar Association, the National Safety Council, the Automotive Safety Foundation and many civic and official groups. Under the sponsorship of the state bar associations, the above three national agencies, the Judicial Administration Section of the American Bar Association, of which Judge Orie L. Phillips is chairman, and other agencies participating in the work of the National Committee on Traffic Law Enforcement, similar state conferences have been held or are to be held in the near future in many states. However, it is interesting to note that Colorado has pioneered the idea of holding district or regional conferences in various parts of the state. Colorado is the first state to develop the idea of taking these conferences out to the various localities so that all enforcement officers might have the benefit of such conferences.

These district conferences have been held at strategic points throughout the state in the following places and on the dates indicated:

*Deputy Attorney General of Colorado; Chairman, Colorado Bar Association Committee on Traffic Courts.

Colorado Springs, May 12, 1944; Pueblo, May 16; Trinidad, May 17; Las Animas, May 18; Steamboat Springs, May 22; Glenwood Springs, May 23; Grand Junction, May 24; Montrose, May 25; Durango, May 26; Alamosa, May 27, Sterling, May 29; Greeley, May 31; and Boulder, June 6.

Invitations were extended to the district judges, district attorneys, county judges, county attorneys, justices of the peace, chiefs of police, municipal judges, sheriffs and the members of the 34th General Assembly, together with the representatives of the press, to attend meetings in their respective localities.

The conferences were well attended by interested groups and were conducted as round-table discussions.

H. Lawrence Hinkley, Deputy Attorney General and Chairman of the Colorado Bar Association Committee on Traffic Courts, acted as chairman of these conferences, leading the discussion of the various subjects and making specific suggestions relating to pertinent legal questions and to court procedure. Vernon W. Drain, Supervisor of the Colorado Highway Courtesy Patrol, discussed enforcement programs, presenting the need for motor vehicle conservation, the necessity for strict continuous enforcement, the dangers inherent in drunk and drinking drivers, and the viciousness of "the fix" in traffic enforcement. David Walker, Division Superintendent of the State Motor Vehicle Department, discussed the manner in which driver and accident records are kept in the state files, and stressed the necessity of adequate and complete reports of violations and accidents in order that the individual driving record of all drivers might be immediately available; and also the need for pre-driver training in the public schools, as well as the present plan for securing the cooperation of the schools in this program. Chief Justice John C. Young of the Colorado Supreme Court summarized the discussions at the close of each conference and emphasized the magnitude and importance of the traffic problem as related to safety and the general law enforcement program.

The conferences stressed particularly the subject of evidence in relation to the importance of complete investigations, the necessity of keeping notes and signed statements, the value of photographs and manner of presentation to make it effective in court: court procedure as relating to the method of properly conducting courts, the need for appearance of district attorneys, the necessity of imposing just fines, methods of obtaining uniform fines, the impression that should be made on the defendant by the proceedings in court, the necessity for conducting traffic courts in a manner to properly protect the defendant's rights when not represented by counsel; the importance of the proper attitude of the court and officers; uniform enforcement; proper penalties; education of drivers and

cooperation with the motor vehicle department in recording offenses and convictions. The best type of evidence of intoxication was held to be of great interest. The close connection between strict enforcement of traffic laws and the lessening of accidents was also stressed by the speakers.

Although the great necessity for lessening traffic accidents during war time and thus conserving manpower and the diminishing supply of motor vehicles makes these conferences important at this time, the increased traffic load anticipated after the war will make traffic safety an important post-war problem also.

The seriousness of the problem likewise calls for appropriate action by police officers, prosecutors, judges and others responsible for enforcement of traffic laws.

There will never be a more opportune time in which to effect changes for improvement of traffic enforcement and traffic courts. It is hoped that the importance of the job ahead shall be considered sufficient to merit the attention of each member of the bar and every attorney who in any way feels, as a member of the profession, that he has an obligation to help improve the administration of justice. In any event, our objective is to increase the feeling of personal responsibility on the part of every driver and pedestrian. The court is certainly one of the most important, if not, in fact, the most important single factor in establishing this attitude.

It is a big job, a serious challenge to all of us, and particularly to members of the bench and bar, to whom we look for active leadership in the task.

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THE CHURCH IN COMMON

Was-Is-and Will Be

THE BODY OR CO, OF THE LORD

Coming Forth - To Stay - To Stand

To Reign and Rule Over The Land

Then Well Live in Peace – and prosperous be
 each have their right – their share – their equity
 with usury – thats no robbery
 THAT will loosen the bands and bonds of inequity
 the cause of war – hell – crime and poverty

A DECLARATION AND AFFIDAVIT—A CONCERN OF ALL

Be it known here and now,

The Church in common at Denver, Colorado

A company an organization of the Lord, is not dead, defunct, or dissolved as some would judge it, but lives and indores ever more, and oppressors, persecutors, trespassers and robbers, and molesters that are holding back the teaching, preaching and promoting of His Royal law, or way of life, liberty, equity, and peace. (The supreme law of our grand old U. S. A.) They are doomed to pay for the damages, trouble and destruction they caused, lest they refrain and straighten up the debt of damages they caused and owe.

BE IT KNOWN HERE AND NOW

Titles to the properties namely known as 1822 East 28th Avenue, Lots no. 27 to 30, Block 33, Downings Addition to Denver, Also Lot No. 28, Block 12, 1st addition to Ironton, known as 3547 Brighton Blvd. rests in the name of the Lord Jesus, and His Church in common, subject to and under His, the law of life and liberty, set free from the law of bondage, taxation, and destruction. The net profits thereof are used for the advancement of His cause, His kingdom and government, titles obtained from any other source are of no value but places the contenders, trespassers and molesters on the way for trouble, distress and damages, to hard to pay, lest they refrain, straighten up the debt of damages they owe, while they can and may. Should a jury and the supreme judge of our land fail, on that supreme law to stand, then we call on Him, the Lord or God, He will prevail and execute judgement without fail. Then the trespassers and oppressors that harden their hearts and stiffen their necks and contend—soon cometh their end. His word is law—they are life to obey—hell to reject—and death to pay. He Controls the destiny—He's not dead, nor asleep—He's on the throne—and sees with an eye—He's high—He brought and taught the living way—The Royal Law, against which there is no law, no council, no nation or people can stand, on that, they will never fall.

This, a decree, is written and filed in His name, Jesus. That molest-ers and oppressors have no excuse—that they might know, hear, heed, and live, rather than be ignorent, foolish and die.

Filed by a ministering agent, trustee, and steward of the Church in common—H. L. Mayfield—% Judge Right, D. O. Right, and Will B. Right.

State of Colorado,
City and County of Denver.

Subscribed and sworn to before me by H. L. Mayfield this 21st day of December, 1943. My commission expires March 16, 1947.

(SEAL)

Mae Hynes, Notary Public.

Demonstrations of Pre-Trial Procedure at The American Bar Association Meeting

A feature of the American Bar Association meeting, on September 12, which it is believed will be of great interest to lawyers and judges, will consist of demonstrations of actual pre-trial hearings by federal and state court judges under the auspices of the Section of Judicial Administration and Judge John J. Parker's Committee on the Improvement of the Administration of Justice. Judge Alfred P. Murrah, of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, who used pre-trial extensively during the time he was a district judge in Oklahoma, will conduct the first pre-trial. He will be followed by Judge Joseph A. Moynihan of Detroit, Presiding Circuit Judge of Michigan, who has been an enthusiastic advocate of the procedure for many years and who was chairman of the Pre-trial Committee appointed by Judge Parker in 1938. Judge Bolitha J. Laws, of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, who was the first pre-trial judge in the District, will follow, and the last pre-trial session will be put on by Judge Harry M. Fisher of Chicago, judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, where pre-trial has most recently demonstrated its efficiency in clearing a congested docket.

The meeting will be presided over by United States Circuit Judge Orie L. Phillips, who is chairman of the Section of Judicial Administration, and the actual pre-trial demonstration will be preceded by a statement by Judge Parker, chairman of a committee of the Judicial Conference on this subject. Comment on the methods used will be made by Professor Edson R. Sunderland, of the University of Michigan, and there will be an opportunity for general discussion by those present.

While much has been written about pre-trial procedure since its inclusion in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, it is still a closed book to many lawyers. These pre-trials of actual cases, presided over by experienced trial judges and acted out by casts of lawyers, should be of great interest. It is planned to make the scripts available to any state or local bar associations which desire to use them at bar meetings.

Forty-four Years Ago

(Week ending June 10, 1900)

Leading young lawyers who object to wine being served at the annual banquet of the Denver University Law School Alumni have signed an agreement not to attend if wine is served. Among those signing are Frank McDonough, W. W. Garwood, C. N. Kellogg, Mary F. Lathrop, C. J. Morley, W. F. Orahod, William A. Moore, R. J. Pitkin, W. P. Hillhouse and Halstead L. Ritter.—*Rocky Mountain Herald*.