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Upon Information and Belief

Dicta Editorial Board

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Upon Information and Belief

The other day we had an opportunity to examine a scrap-book of newspaper clippings, programs, and other material gathered at the time of the meeting of the American Bar Association in Denver in 1926. We were interested in several articles relating to attempts of some of the bar leaders of that day to make a uniform divorce law and to stop the so-called "migratory divorces." Of course, we don't purport to remember *everything* that has happened since 1926, but it does seem to us that there hasn't been much progress made in this field since that date. (Incidentally, the scrap-book indicates quite clearly why the members of the American Bar Association would like to have Denver hold another meeting of that association soon.)

Col. Van Cise presented several very fine divorce bills to the legislature in 1943. There didn't seem to be much opposition against them, but, unfortunately, neither was there much general interest in their favor exhibited by the members of the bar. We hope that the colonel will not allow his 1943 defeat to dampen his spirits, and that he will renew his efforts, with increased vigor, in 1945. We suggest, also, that the attorneys of the state could do well to investigate these bills and put their support behind them.

We note that the Chicago Bar Association is considering sponsoring divorce legislation in the 1945 session of the Illinois legislature. The other day, as we sat through several divorce hearings, we came to the conclusion that there is one ground for divorce, well recognized in practice, though not by statute, that is, "That the plaintiff and defendant no longer wish to be married to each other."

This leads to another point. We note that the retiring president of the Illinois State Bar Association criticized the fact that members of the association have actively attempted to defeat bills sponsored by the association when they reach the legislature. We do not know the reasons for this. It may be that there was not sufficient approval and discussion of the measures within the association itself, so that it could be said fairly that they were really not bar association measures. It may be that the opponents just did not take time to study the proposals before the association had placed its stamp of approval on them, and waited until the legislature convened before they attempted to find out how they stood. And again, it may be that these opponents didn't have any real objection, but merely wanted to show their power, or just be mean.

Bar association legislation has had similar experience in Colorado. We have not been able to understand why the organized lawyers—the persons who should be most interested in legislation, the tools of their trade—don't take more interest in legislation and do a little more toward

getting some good legislation through and killing some of the bad legislation which does get through.

We note that a Boston attorney has suggested that the associations have a paid lobbyist. We don't know that that is the solution, but we do know that the organized lawyers had better take more interest in legislation if they wish to regain some of their lost prestige.

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