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Banks and Trust Companies Not to Practice Law

Dicta Editorial Board

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progress in this country an adroit, systematic and sinister effort to discredit and destroy the influence and the leadership of the stabilizing forces and institutions in American life. Those who are insidiously preaching an alien and un-American philosophy of government and society are paying to the legal profession the high tribute of endeavoring to discredit and break down the legal profession, by creating a popular impression that lawyers are not to be trusted or can be outwitted by the impromptu common sense of the poor but honest heroes of drama. The radio, the motion pictures, and the radical publications are used insistently and incessantly to hold the legal profession up to contempt and derision and distrust. The foes of free government and of liberty under law realize full well that the lawyers as a class are among their chief obstacles. The advocates of European ideas of government make war on the legal profession here, as they have done in other lands. For one, I believe that no greater tribute has ever been paid to the legal profession. We can and should accept the full impact of the charge that the lawyer is the friend and defender of human freedom, the instinctive foe of arbitrary and lawless power. The profession can afford to stand or fall on that challenge."

Excerpt from speech of Hon. Wm. L. Ransom, President of American Bar Association, to graduating class of Albany Law School, Albany, N. Y., June 4, 1936:

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As DICTA goes to press we are advised that the Supreme Court has ruled, effective September 1, 1936, in favor of the lawyers' contention that certain work of the officers of the banks and trust companies constituted the practice of law and has forbade continuance of the practice.