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Dicta Observes

Dicta Editorial Board

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DICTA

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Dicta Observes

A very important message to all members of the bar is being sent forward by President Earle W. Evans of the American Bar Association. The message is as follows:

“At the recent meeting of the American Bar Association at Grand Rapids, a nationwide movement was inaugurated which, in its accomplishment, will serve the public interest and will also directly benefit every member of the bar. When the history of our profession is written, the Conference of State and Local Bar Association Officials held on August 29 may constitute an important landmark.

“At that meeting a National Bar Program was definitely decided upon. A project for focusing the attention of lawyers in all parts of the country on a few important subjects was adopted and will be carried out during the coming year.

“The plan for a common effort to solve the most troublesome problems of the profession will go far toward establishing on a firmer footing the position of leadership in the affairs of state and nation rightfully belonging to the lawyer but which he now stands in danger of losing.

“The subjects which were selected by the conference of bar association presidents and secretaries and which were ratified by the Executive Committee of the American Bar Association, were:

- “1. Criminal Law and Its Enforcement.
- “2. Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.
- “3. Unauthorized Practice of the Law.
- “4. Selection of Judges.

"A clearing house is being established in the office of the American Bar Association in Chicago, where information on these and other topics will be available and to which reports should be made of any action or activity in bar associations over the country. It is hoped in this way to crystallize the opinion of lawyers on these important matters and to develop a national sentiment which will represent the attitude of the bar.

"An assistant will be working with me along these lines and every effort will be made in the office of the American Bar Association to be of assistance to the state and local organizations which may desire help in doing the contemplated task.

"I feel that this is a great opportunity for the bar to exert its influence and by a unity of effort in terms of work make an important contribution to the improvement of the administration of justice.

"A concrete program outlining steps to be taken by state and local bar associations to assist in this program will be sent out shortly.

"I personally believe this movement is designed to promote the public welfare and I pledge myself to give the full support of my administration to it."

COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION

Apparently no annual meeting of the Colorado Bar Association will be held this year due to the action of the Executive Committee thereon. Canvass of the situation revealed that many of the active members would be unable to attend and, from the standpoint of the Association's treasury, the incurring of additional obligations would be ruinous. The action of the Executive Committee was based upon reports

of the state as a whole and is in harmony with that of other state bar associations for 1933.

The report of the Committee on Grievances shows that of the matters under consideration by the committee, one lawyer was acquitted by the Supreme Court and two matters are pending therein. The committee dismissed charges in two cases after hearings; one appeal was taken to the court and the committee was sustained. In two cases the committee is awaiting the end of litigation. Thirty-two complaints were dismissed without hearing, referred to court or dropped for lack of prosecution. One lawyer resigned from the bar before charges were heard; one lawyer was refused certificate of good standing for admission to practice in another state; one was denied reinstatement by the court and two applications for reinstatement are pending. The committee has under investigation twenty-five matters.

During the year contempt proceedings were instituted against certain Denver banks and trust companies charging them with unlawful practice of law in drafting wills and trust instruments. Printed briefs were filed by both sides, and the case got to issue in the Supreme Court in May of this year, being submitted on the stipulation of facts, upon the answers of the banks to interrogatories submitted by the committee, upon some testimony, with some additional later authorities, as were originally filed with the committee. The court was unable to grant oral argument before vacation, but it is expected that the case will be argued in the very near future.

1798-1933

In 1798 Thomas Jefferson complained that while our state governments were the best in the world, without exception, Washington in the course of nine or ten years had become more and more arbitrary and the general government had swallowed more of the public liberty than England. He stated, "Were we directed from Washington when to sow and when to reap, we should soon want bread."