

January 1926

The Bar Primary Meeting

Denver Bar Association Record

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Recommended Citation

The Bar Primary Meeting, 3 Denv. B.A. Rec. 9 (1926).

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The Bar Primary Meeting

THAT lawyers love to "argufy" was forcefully demonstrated at the special meeting of the association on November twenty-second, called for the purpose of considering the advisability of holding a bar primary to suggest to the governor names of lawyers who are, in the opinion of the local bar, qualified to succeed Judge Butler on the District Bench.

Dr. Bayless Makes "Touching" Appeal

Before taking up the question of the proposed bar primary, President Marsh introduced Rev. Dr. Bayless who addressed the association feelingly concerning the Community Chest and its relation to the Legal Aid Society, urging the members of the association to increase their subscriptions so that the Chest might reach the goal of its budgeted needs. So "touching" was Dr. Bayless' appeal that he left the room with five hundred dollars more in his pocket.

President Marsh Kicks Off

We were all familiar with the purpose of the meeting, President Marsh declared. A governor, entering office or retiring from office, would seek to appoint one lawyer to the District Bench. The occasion for the opportunity and responsibility arose through the election of Judge Butler to the Supreme Bench and it had been suggested that we might be helpful to a governor in finding a man qualified to fill the vacancy. As a result of these considerations, Judge Butler had made a statement which President Marsh read to the meeting. In this statement Judge Butler expressed himself as being in hearty accord with the bar primary idea and said that he knew of no finer service which the association could render than to adopt a plan by which all members of the bar could

give the governor the benefit of their recommendation which would be entitled to and would no doubt receive most careful consideration. After the matter had been considered by the Executive Committee of the association, President Marsh explained, the Judicial Committee and the Judicial Selection Committee had met together with the Executive Committee to consider the bar primary question. Judge Stimson who had been chairman of this joint committee and was called upon for his report.

Stimson Stimulates Discussion

Judge Stimson explained that the discussion in the joint committee had been very frank and had covered much ground. Questions were asked, he said, as to what assurance, if any, we would have as to whether or not our recommendations would have any influence whatever with the governor. No such assurance could be given, he said, and none had been, as any governor who would commit himself on such a proposition would stultify himself. But we had the same right of recommendation that all the people had to petition and the same right to make our wishes known as the public in general had. A motion had been adopted by the joint committee that the president should call this meeting as soon as possible, the committee feeling that some sort of selection and recommendation should be made by the bar. The adoption of the report of the joint committee was then moved.

Rosenbaum Recommends Another Plan

Mr. Rosenbaum, speaking to the question of the adoption of the joint committee's report, thought that it was in the interest of the association

that an able man should be appointed to succeed Judge Butler; that, if we held a bar primary and selected three men from each party as candidates for the appointment, someone else would probably be appointed; that the matter should be left to the executive committee or the joint committee to confer with the appointing governor because negotiation would be much more effective. Accordingly, Mr. Rosenbaum offered a substitute motion empowering the three committees to take up the matter with the governor. This motion, having no second was not put.

Patton for Politics

A. Newton Patton then took the floor, and said that the governor should have the power of appointment but that it should be limited to the appointment of a successor of the same political faith as the retiring judge.

Bosworth Backs Rosenbaum

Robert Bosworth, at this point, arose to say that he heartily approved the Rosenbaum plan of leaving the matter with the joint committee for negotiation, and moved that the motion to adopt the report be laid on the table.

Report is Adopted

Mr. Bosworth's motion to lay on the table was then put and lost, and the report of the joint committee submitted by Judge Stimson was thereupon adopted with few dissenting votes.

Barker Barks

The spirit next moved Clyde Barker who arose to move the appointment of a nominating committee for the purpose of nominating ten qualified lawyers, explaining that he thought this plan would be more effective than to have the selection made by the primary method.

A Hint from Hutton

Mr. William E. Hutton then suggested that it was not practical for a meeting of this kind to determine upon details in connection with the primary, and proposed a resolution authorizing the joint committee, consisting of the judiciary committee and the committee on judicial selection, to provide for the holding of a bar primary and to adopt rules governing it.

Lindsley in Doubt

Harry Lindsley next said that he understood from the resolution that the whole matter of a bar primary would have to be referred back to the association to which Mr. Hutton replied that under the terms of the resolution the committee took the full responsibility for carrying through the primary. Mr. Lindsley then said that he thought it was not the sense of the meeting that the privilege of nominating candidates should be delegated to the joint committee and that he thought each man who wanted to be a candidate should have the right to hand in his name.

Lubers Lays About Him

Mr. Lubers followed Mr. Lindsley, declaring that he would refuse to be bound by the action of the meeting. He was for a Democrat, he declared, despite the result of any bar primary. He wanted to know the politics of the committee, of the candidates, and a lot of other things that were not revealed, and he was not for any non-partisan action whatever either by the bar association or otherwise.

Hutton Explains

Mr. Hutton then explained that there was nothing binding upon the conscience of anyone in connection with the adoption of the resolution; that Mr. Lindsley had misappre-

hended the whole purport of the resolution; and that, assuming there should be a bar primary, the door would be open to any nominations from any source. The committee did have in mind, however, that an equal number of Democrats and Republicans would be finally recommended.

President Marsh Illuminates the Matter

President Marsh, by way of further explanation, said that the nominees to be recommended would be the nominees of the association and not in any sense the nominees of the committee and that non-members of the bar association would not be excluded. Mr. Hutton's resolution was then put and adopted.

A Toll Talk

Henry Toll then inquired as to whether or not the primary would be only for the bar association to which Mr. Hutton responded that the matter was left to the committee under the resolution but that it was the intention of the committee to let all members of the bar participate.

Vogl Ventures Suggestion

Albert Vogl, in conclusion, ventured the hope that the committee would give an opportunity to those who believed in a non-partisan primary to be heard before the matter was finally determined upon, following which suggestion President Marsh adjourned the meeting.

—J. C. S.

Another Injustice to Labor

"I 'ear Bill 'Awkins is suin' the company fer damages."

"Why, wot 'ave they done to 'im?"

"They blew the quittin' whistle when 'e was carryin' a 'eavy bit o' wood an' 'e dropt it on 'is foot."

—*London Opinion.*

St. Alphonso's Twelve Commandments for Lawyers

Jacob V. Schaetzel clips the following interesting item from a local paper:

Rome.—Twelve commandments for lawyers was the chief merit of the legal activity of St. Alphonso De Liguori, whose feast was recently celebrated with great devotion here and in Naples.

St. Alphonso was a practicing lawyer up to the age of 28.

The twelve commandments were:

1—No lawyer should accept unjust cases, for they are pernicious to the conscience and to decorum.

2—The client must not be burdened with unfair costs.

3—A case must not be defended with illicit or unjust means.

4—Clients cases must be treated just as if they were one's own cases.

5—The lawyer must spare no pains or time in getting up his case properly.

6—A lawyer's delays and neglect often damage clients, and when this is the case, the lawyer should make amends.

7—The lawyer should ask God for help in his defenses, for God is the first protector of justice.

8—No lawyer should accept more cases than he can give time to.

9—Justice and honesty should be like the pupils of their eyes to lawyers.

10—If a lawyer loses a case thru negligence, he ought to compensate his client.

11—In defending a suit, a lawyer ought to be truthful, sincere, respectful and logical.

12—The requisites of a lawyer are wisdom, learning, diligence, truth, fidelity and sense of justice.