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Mohammed Went to the Mountain: Rainier's Shoulders Are Broad Enough to Carry the Load of the Bar Association

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Mohammed Went to the Mountain

Rainier's Shoulders Are Broad Enough to Carry the Load of the Bar Association

The mountain could not come to Mohammed, so Mohammed went to the mountain. The Board of Governors cannot take the State Bar Convention to you, so you will have to come to the convention. There is one thing we can do, however, and we believe this has been accomplished: that is to select such an attractive and delightful place for holding the meeting that you will be unable to resist the urge to load the family car and meet with your fellow barristers at Paradise Valley, Mount Rainier, on July 29 and 30. The wonders and beauties of this most delightful spot have been extolled to such great length that little need be said, except to add that if you have never been there you have missed something.

You will observe from the program heretofore published that the convention period has been shortened to two full days, with the annual banquet as the final windup on Saturday night. In the past there has been a general exodus after the Friday night banquet, as a result of which many important matters for consideration on the following morning have received but scant attention at the hands of the members. By starting Friday morning and concluding Saturday night, no one will have to run out in order to be back to their place of business by Monday morning. For those living on the coast, it simply means a delightful weekend, and for those east of the mountains the convention will work in very nicely with a vacation trip around the Olympic peninsula or a swing up through Port Angeles, Victoria and Vancouver, B. C.

Another innovation this year is that the first morning of the convention will be devoted to sectional meetings. It is common knowledge that many who attend conventions are reticent about expressing their views before a large audience, so that an opportunity will be afforded this year for the first time to meet in smaller groups where no one will have any hesitancy about getting on their feet and giving voice to their thoughts and opinions on the matter under discussion. The convention will be divided up into five groups for the purpose of considering the following timely and important subjects and making recommendations to the general session of the convention:

Public Relations

Pursuant to the mandate of the Bellingham convention, the Public Relations Committee, after a great deal of thought and arduous labor, put on a series of radio broadcasts for the purpose of fostering a better feeling between the public and the legal profession. A poll of the membership was then taken, and apparently this program did not meet with the approval of the Bar. However, sufficient interest was stimulated to produce many constructive suggestions. No one will gainsay that some program is needed to counteract the unjust criticism too frequently directed at the legal profession. The problem is, what sort of a program should be sponsored? Here is your opportunity to attend this section and give the committee the benefit of your views on the matter.

Legislation

In a very few months the 1939 session of the legislature will convene. If any legislative program is to be put forward, the same must be formulated at this meeting. During the last session of the legislature two bills were introduced; one in the Senate and one in the House, containing provisions expressly authorizing realtors to draft all forms of legal documents necessary to be prepared incidental to any transaction in which they were a party. Either of these bills would have nullified the decision in *Paul v. Stanley*, 168 Wash. 371. Both of these bills were killed in committee. The whole Integrated Bar Act was nearly wiped off the slate at the last session of the legislature. These are just a couple of reasons why we should interest ourselves in legislative matters. It must be apparent that a strong legislative program should be adopted in anticipation of the next session of the legislature.

Free Legal Aid

All of you who have attended your local bar meetings, particularly in the larger centers, know that at the present time free legal aid is a rather perplexing problem. Under the new social order, it is evident that unless the lawyers themselves set up workable agencies to supply free legal aid to the indigent, governmental agencies will see that this service is furnished to those in need of the same. Here is an opportunity for you to give vocal expression as to whether or not this important matter shall pass out of the hands of the various Bar Associations, or shall remain under their guidance and control.

Law Enforcement

Considerable progress has been made in speeding up criminal trials and by the shortening of time of appeals in our Supreme Court. Before the courts can function, however, the criminal must be apprehended. Progress has also been made in this field, but there is room for considerable improvement. A large percentage of the crimes are being committed by the youth of the nation, and something must be done to keep these youngsters so occupied that they will not divert their thoughts and deeds to criminal activity. Herein lies a great opportunity for the Bar Association to sponsor a program of a real constructive nature.

Unauthorized Practice of the Law

Assuming you have passed over the foregoing subjects for discussion without that spark of enthusiasm being inflamed, I am sure that the mention of the unauthorized practice of the law will make you put on your fighting togs. Scarcely a day passes but that a letter does not come into the executive office complaining about this or that layman engaging in the practice of law. Progress is being made along this line under the direction of a very able and interested committee. Practically every realtor, accountant and adjuster is engaging in the unlawful practice of the law in one form or another. How far shall the Bar Association go in an attempt to stop this practice? Will the reaction of the public be that the lawyers are trying to feather their own nests rather than protect the public? The committee needs your counsel and advice.

Don't fail to be at the Mountain July 29th and 30th!

PHILIP S. BROOKE