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President Comments on Bar Program: Practice by Government Employees, New Committees, Legislative Program and Draft Aid Discussed by New Bar President

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President Comments on Bar Program

**Practice by Government Employees, New Committees, Legislative Program and Draft Aid Discussed by
New Bar President**

At our recent State convention held in Olympia two resolutions were passed which I believe are of interest to all of the members of the bar of this state. The president was directed to appoint a committee to make a thorough study of the cost of law books in this State and to devise some means, if possible, to reduce the cost of law books to the lawyer. We hope, if this question can be solved by legislation, that the report of the committee will be made before adjournment of the legislature. If the remedy is by contract with the publishers your Board

of Governors will use its best efforts to accomplish the desired result.

The president was further directed to appoint a committee to study the question of whether lawyers who were salaried employees, government, state, county and city, should be permitted to engage in the general practice of law. If it appears that this subject is one that can be regulated by statute the committee has been directed to prepare and present an appropriate bill to the legislative committee for its consideration.

All of the other committees for the ensuing year have now been appointed. The Board of Governors felt that no member of the bar should be asked to give more than one year's service on a committee and therefore has appointed entirely new committees. May I, on behalf of the Board of Governors, express to all of the retiring members of the different committees the appreciation of the board for the services so generously given by them during the past year.

Please keep in mind that this is a legislative year and that we need the assistance of the entire bar in this State in carrying through our legislative program. We believe that your legislative committee, composed of eighteen representative lawyers from all sections of the State, should be a clearing house for all legislation proposed by lawyers. If you will submit such proposed legislation to this committee and if the committee determines that such bills, if enacted into law, would be beneficial to the entire bar of the state, then it will not only indorse these bills, but will use its best efforts to secure their passage. If, on the other hand, for any reason that may seem advisable to the committee, your bill cannot be indorsed you will immediately be advised of that fact, but the committee will do nothing to hinder or impede its passage unless, in the opinion of the committee, it is harmful to the bar as a whole.

The local bar associations can be of great service to the legislative committee by contacting their representatives in the legislature and selling them upon the purpose and scope of our legislative activities and also the program of the committee for the next session of the legislature. You will be advised later by the legislative committee itself as to its program for the next session.

The state bar was requested by the governor to assist him in selecting a committee of three lawyers in each county of the state to direct the filling out of questionnaires by the draftees under the selective service act. Your Board of Governors has made recommendations to the president in each district and a complete list has been furnished to the governor. On behalf of the association, I offered the services of the bar of the entire state to the governor some time ago in connection with this service.

May I remind you that this is your bar association. You have elected the members of the Board of Governors to represent you in the management of its affairs. We invite your inquiries, suggestions or criticisms. We all have but one goal in mind and that is to have the best integrated bar in this country.

J. SPEED SMITH, *President.*