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**Report of the Chairman of the Legislative Committee,
by Sylvester Garvin**

The legislative committee as usual hasn't anything to say, but we are going to present to you at this session what we think is a program that doesn't need any particular debate at this meeting. We will have another convention a year from now when the American Bar Association meets in Seattle, but we are trying to get over to the lawyers of the State of Washington that we want active participation in the affairs of the Association. The legislative committee can't do a thing without your help and we need your help in every locality and in every local Bar Association of the state. We have some radical ideas that I want you to understand have been quite thoroughly discussed in committee meetings by the sub-chairmen who are going to present them to you this morning. We are not attempting to make you swallow them; we want your criticism; we want your reaction and we want an intelligent statement from the Bar at the convention next year so that we can go to the legislature and say that these matters have been considered, we feel that we are representing the lawyers and the attitude of the lawyers and we think that the legislation is necessary

Another thing. Remember, the legislative committee is not a salaried committee and we have to go to you every two years and ask for donations. Now, a lot of you object to those donations, but it is part of your duty and obligation. And the reason that we cannot or feel that we cannot use State Bar Association funds is that the Bar of this state is integrated by an act of the legislature. It is a corporation created by the legislature, and the Board of Governors has felt that we can't use the funds of the Association to promote what some person might term selfish interests.

Another thing that I want definitely understood and I wish you would sell it to your local bars and to your local communities is that the legislative committee can't pass any laws; that is up to the legislature. We can merely present what you ladies and gentlemen ask us to present and say that, "It is the opinion of the Bar Association it is good legislation." The legislative committee was never created on the theory of going down and telling that legislature what to do. We have attempted from year to year to be of assistance to the various members of the legislature, and if they wanted our opinion we have always had a representative down there. Last year it was Dick Ott, who is now absent and in New York at the American Legion Convention. I wish

he were here to tell you, but you read his report. We want your assistance and we want you to try to get out and sell some of these programs that you have got. As the previous speaker just stated, we don't only have to sell the judges, we have to sell the people, the public, and we have got to explain why we are selling it. And the thought behind the legislative committee is this:

Not to pass legislation, but to protect the Bar and the members of the Bar from those stealthy encroachments of other organized businesses that come in and attempt to take our business away, and fundamentally that is the principal purpose that they work for. We check every act down there to see whether or not it affects the practice of law, the lawyers or the courts. For the past several years the Judges' Association has asked the Bar Association to represent them at the legislature. In other words, the judges stay away. They feel that the legislature has resented in the past, as I told you before, of having the judges down there lobbying. It is the obligation I feel and the committee feels and the Board of Governors feel that the Bar Association should carry that load.

One of the things that we have definitely recommended, and don't forget it when you get back to your local Bar—can you tell me of any good reason why we should hide and why we should not let the general public know what we are attempting to do, and can you tell me another reason, and we do strongly recommend to you, that when you do go back home this fall that you organize your local bar association and appoint a speaker's bureau that will get out and acquaint the public, even the lawyers of your local bar associations of what the Board of Governors and the legislative committee and the Association is attempting to do.

Now, one of the issues that perhaps needs legislation is, I understand, the real estate men, and that seems to be a bugaboo with all of us, that they are taking our business. Well, it is the experience of most lawyers that every time a banker or real estate man or notary public or the shoemaker draws a contract it means a law suit for some lawyer. I don't know whether we are losing a great deal, but they tell me there is a bad situation in the state because the last real estate act that was passed, they inform me now, permits us to be real estate men. In other words, we are exempt from taking the real estate examination. In other words, we can sell real estate now and we won't be intruding in their field of endeavor.

Another thing I wish somebody would get active on and the committee recommends is that perhaps we should have a new statute in the State of Washington similar to the California act or British Columbia act on notary publics. The committee as a whole feels that it is unfair, an intrusion upon the public to permit every public stenographer and every bank clerk and every shoemaker and garageman to be a notary public, because we and the public are being taken advantage of.

Another thing that I want to call your attention to is this: That in addition to the American Bar Association meeting here next summer, as you know by statute, the judges of all the different circuits have to meet annually. We were given to understand that Judge Garret, former member of the local bar of Spokane and Walla Walla, has prevailed upon the federal judges to hold their meeting here next summer a week previous to the American Bar Association. We would appreciate your giving our program a little consideration, we want your help, we need your assistance and we will appreciate your criticism. If you have bills that you want to go before the legislative committee don't want until next summer, draft the bill now and send it in. I assure you the committee will give it its consideration and you will know and be advised just what action has been taken.

Now, the first one is a debatable problem. It may be a little bit radical to you folks, it requires consideration, and Miss Anne Thompson of the Seattle Bar, who is entitled to a lot of credit, has done a great deal of hard work and a lot of briefing, and had the assistance of a fine subcommittee, is going to open on the divorce question.

Report on Proposed Changes in the Divorce Law of Washington, by Anne Thompson

The following recommendations which we feel if the Bar will think over carefully during the next year that then by the time the next legislature meets the Bar itself, from whom the impetus must come, will be able to present to the legislature some bill on divorce which will be the result of the practical experience of working in that field and not the result of some of the remarks which we hear as matters of lectures.

Now, these are not necessarily in chronological order, nor are they necessarily in the stage of their importance according to the way we lined them up.

First, the residence statute would remain one year, but the residence