Report of Resolutions Committee

D. V. Morthland
“Brought into existence by the mind of man, the law has all of man’s frailties. Therefore, being strong in one generation and inadequate in another, as the races of men are, it must be subject to perpetually changing interpretation. But throughout these changes in interpretation it must always have as its indestructible goal the burning resolve that the lowliest of men can come before it and be judged without personal prejudice, without malice, without contempt. The law is—or should be—and must be—the unassailable faith of a free people who voluntarily have accepted these restraints so that none of their number need go to the grave with the black belief that life was set against him.”

Ladies and gentlemen of the Wasington State Bar, whether this is a good definition or not, it is nonetheless the effort of a layman observer to place into words before you the greatest goal of civilized life—the goal that you in your profession ever must be seeking—the goal of human justice.

No goal can exceed it in importance. For out of justice grows all that we Americans have—or can hope to have—in our scattered years on earth.

I envy you, ladies and gentlemen of the Bar, for having always at your fingertips the possibility of attaining for someone this greatest of all goals. May your reach never fall short.

Thank you. (Applause)

Report of Resolutions Committee, by D. V. Morthland

Ladies and gentlemen of the convention, the following are the proposed resolutions and recommendations of the Resolutions Committee:

“We extend our sincere thanks to the Bar Associations of Skagit and Whatcom Counties for the generous hospitality they have provided for us, especially we wish to commend George McCush, chairman of the general committee, and his assistant committees for the arrangements which were made for our comfort, and particularly for the unique repast furnished us last evening on the occasion of the salmon bake.

“We also wish to commend the newspapers of Bellingham for the adequate and generous coverage they have given the proceedings of the Association.

“We heartily endorse and urge the passage of House Resolution Number 1639 (Jennings Bill) recently passed by the House of Repre-
sentatives, by which bill the venue of actions against railroad companies for personal injuries sustained by an employee is restricted to the place where the injuries were sustained or place where the plaintiff resides.

"We recommend to the United States Senate the prompt passage of said bill in the January session to prevent the present harmful practice of bringing such suits in jurisdictions thought to be the most favorable to the plaintiff, regardless of the convenience of the witnesses and regardless of the place of residence of the plaintiff.

"The secretary of this Association is hereby requested to send duly certified copies hereof to United States Senators Cain and Magnuson.

"The State Bar has been requested to provide all members copies of proposed legislation which the legislative committee recommends for passage, the same to be delivered to such members on or before the first day of December preceding any legislative year and that referendum votes be taken on each thereof. Due to technical difficulties, considerable expense and the human failure of preparing proposed legislation in advance of the meeting of the succeeding legislature, we believe the suggestion is not practical, but we recommend that the Bar Association through its monthly newspaper and by means of the Law Review, give to the individual members of the Association all possible current information as to proposed pending legislation.

"We recommend that a committee be appointed, authorized and instructed to draft a juvenile court bill similar in principle to House Bill 101 which passed the House in the 1947 legislative session; that this bill reserve to our courts the right to appoint probation officers and fix the standards to be used in the selection thereof.

"That this committee report back to the next convention of the Washington State Bar Association.

"It is recommended that the board of governors cause steps to be taken to the end that all local bar associations, and through them the public, be informed as to the facts, issues and principles involved in the proposed legislation.

"In view of the fact that by Chapter 140, Session Laws of 1947, the costs of publication of legal notices was permitted to be increased at least 66\% per cent, we recommend that the board of governors provide for a revision and submit to the members of the Association through its publication, or by mail, forms of legal notices from which have been eliminated all unnecessary verbiage.
"We heartily commend the policy of our federal government in its efforts to develop a stable and vigorous foreign policy and particularly do we urge that firm measures be taken to stop the spread of Communism.

"Resolved that the Washington State Bar Association support the Senate bill introduced by Senator Magnuson which provides for compensation for attorneys' fees for indigent defendants in criminal cases in federal courts.

"We recognize the necessity of having as members of our Courts of Record, men of normal physical condition and mental vigor. We hesitate at this time to fix an arbitrary age for compulsory retirement of judges. In view of the rather generous provisions made for the security and comfort of our aging jurists, we should procure adequate support of the Judicial Retirement Fund to the end that the same shall be at all times fully solvent. We recognize the problem to be worthy of careful study and recommend that same be referred to the board of governors with the request that a special committee be appointed to make a comprehensive study of the problem and report to our next annual convention."

J. W KENDALL
H. E. HERMAN
JOS. E. HALL
D. V MORTHLAND

MR. MORTHLAND: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the report of the Resolutions Committee.

(Motion adopted)