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Report of the Resolutions Committee

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ness of his cause, justice under law shall be administered with expedition, certainty and equality.

Democracy in America also connotes a judiciary endowed with substantial and independent powers, secure against all corrupting or perverting influences and secure also against the arbitrary authority of the administrative heads of government. It connotes a legal system based on natural justice and practical common sense which opposes reason to passion, accepted principles to unbridled discretion, and the requirements of fair play to arbitrary power.

Another underlying principle of our governmental system is an organized society under a government of laws and not of men. That is to say, that the rules of social conduct shall be prescribed by legislative enactment within constitutional limitations and by judicial pronouncements in accordance with settled principles, which, through long years of experience, have come to be established as just, fair and reasonable for determining the respective rights, the duties and the obligations of men, and for the regulation of their conduct in a free society; and that the individual shall be held to answer for his conduct in accordance with those rules and not by such rule or standard as a particular official or tribunal may personally see fit to apply.

No function more important, no duty more sacred devolves upon the courts than the function and duty to preserve and safeguard these rights and freedoms of the individual and to maintain that delicate balance between governmental authority and individual freedom to the end that there shall be ordered liberty under law.

From time to time throughout our history the Supreme Court has been subjected to criticism, sometimes bitter criticism. The present Court has not been free from such polemics. But today, perhaps more so than at any time in our history, the Court manifests a consciousness of its power and its sacred duty to preserve and safeguard the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual and to maintain that delicate balance between individual freedom and governmental authority which is the essence of ordered liberty under law

REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

By RICHARD S. MUNTER

There were submitted to the Resolutions Committee pursuant to the by-laws of the Association two resolutions.

The Resolutions Committee met and heard from the proponents of these two resolutions. The first resolution which we report to the convention is a resolution submitted by Mr. F. L. Stotler of Colfax which reads as follows:

"RESOLVED that the Washington State Bar Association at its 1953 Annual Convention is opposed to the compulsory inclusion of lawyers in any social security program, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each member of the Congress from this state and to the President of the United States,"

and the report of the Resolutions Committee is that it do pass.

The second resolution which was submitted to the Resolutions Committee is the following one submitted by J. W. Greenough of the Spokane Bar. It is as follows:

"WHEREAS, the character, volume and importance of administrative and policy affecting activities of the executive secretary of the Washington State Bar Association have greatly broadened and increased each succeeding year, especially in the fields of public relations, grievance complaints and ethics, unauthorized practice and related subjects affecting the esteem of the public for our profession and our courts, and

"WHEREAS, all of the activities of the Washington State Bar Association and the discharge of its responsibilities to the public and to its members require the direction of an administrative head trained in the law and experienced in its practice, and

"WHEREAS, bar associations of sister states have usually, if not universally, employed as their executive secretaries or similar salaried administrative heads trained and experienced lawyers,

"NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the members of the Washington State Bar Association assembled in this annual meeting urgently recommend and request the selection and employment by the Board of Governors of the Association at the earliest practicable date as executive secretary of the Association a lawyer admitted to the Association and experienced in the practice of law and that the position of executive secretary of the Association thereafter be filled by such a person",

and the report of the committee as to such resolution is that it do not pass.

Editor's Note. There was extended discussion of each of the resolutions set forth above, and neither resolution was passed.