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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WYOMING STATE BAR

Joseph B. Sullivan

Cheyenne, Wyoming

September 7, 1972

One of our main projects during my term of office has been the promotion of the passage of Constitutional Amendment No. 4 concerning Judicial Selection, Tenure, and Discipline. As you know, last April your Association sponsored a Citizens' Conference on the subject in Casper. The Conference was attended for the 2½ days by approximately 175 influential citizens from throughout the state. I feel the Conference was very successful due to the great work of Tom Lubnau and his committee, who were Judge Parker, Judge Pearson, Judge Ilsley, Howell C. McDaniel, Don E. Chapin, Richard R. Bostwick, the American Judicature Society and Stan Lowe, with the financial assistance of LEA funds through the Governor's Planning Committee on Criminal Administration, John Rogers Administrator.

As a result of the conference, the Citizens Committee incorporated, with the fine help of Don Chapin and Howell McDaniel, and is known as Wyoming Citizens for Court Improvement. Officers are: Mrs. Carl E. Jenkins of Casper, President; Bud Sailor of Jackson, Vice President; Russell J. Fennell of Cheyenne, Treasurer; and Mrs. William Twyford of Cheyenne, Secretary.

This group is very active and enthusiastic and will continue its efforts to promote the passage of the Amendment. You will be called upon by Tom Lubnau's committee and the Citizens group to assist the program by speaking to your local

service clubs and community meetings. We would appreciate your wholehearted cooperation on this matter. I am sure we will have a thorough analysis of the subject on our Friday program.

As you know, the adoption of the Code of Professional Responsibility was approved by the Bar at our Cody meeting, and the recommendation has been submitted to the Supreme Court for adoption. We will have a report and recommendation this afternoon regarding the adoption of disciplinary rules for the State Bar. Copies of the Rules and recommendation have been handed you at registration; and those who did not receive one may pick them up at the rear of the hall.

I am sure we all realize that our present disciplinary procedures are cumbersome, ineffective, and archaic. We have no established format for the handling of complaints. During the past year complaints received by me have been immediately referred to the particular Bar Commissioner in whose district the complaint originated for investigation and report. In most cases the matter is straightened out and corrected by the Commissioner, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the Bar Commissioners for the splendid cooperation given me in this area. If, upon investigation, it is recommended that further action be taken the matter is referred to the Board of Law Examiners. I feel that because of lack of funds and personnel, the Board of Law Examiners is unable to give this very important problem the consideration deserved.

The Idaho State Bar has recently revamped its program and employs a full time investigator who is a former member of the FBI, now retired. We have had some discussion in the Jackrabbit Bar of the possibility of two or more State Bars using the investigator on a joint funding plan.

I feel that the adoption of this Code of Responsibility and the attendant Rules of Discipline should have your number one consideration and priority.

We all know the present image of the Bar and we must face the fact that we should immediately take steps within the Bar to devise a proper, workable disciplinary procedure that can be speedily effective and let the general public know that their complaints are receiving consideration and action.

As you all know, the practice of law is rapidly changing with no-fault insurance, no-fault divorce, Uniform Codes of

all kinds, and prepaid legal service. It is very important that, if our Association is to have some purpose and benefit for its members and if we are to progress, the Bar Officers and Commissioners consider the use of CLC programs from time to time throughout the State

To implement such a program I feel and again urge, as did Joseph E. Darrah, your favorable consideration of a full time Executive Secretary.

All of this comes back to the matter of funding and money. The annual dues which we pay to our bar of thirty five (\$35.00) dollars is not adequate and certainly far less than any other organization or group which has an active program. I urge that you favorably consider a recommendation to our Supreme Court that the annual dues be substantially increased.

It is my opinion that some form of no-fault insurance legislation will be requested in Wyoming, and would recommend that you take advantage of the Friday program to acquaint yourselves with the matter. I hope that when the time comes the Bar will be in a position to recommend legislation which will meet the needs of our State.

The Bar Presidents Section of the American Bar Association has gone on record as favoring individual state action rather than overall Federal legislation such as the Hart-Magnuson Bill.

I want to again call your attention to the Jackrabbit Bar composed of the State Bars of Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. It is a very informative Bar, without dues, dealing with mutual problems. Ross Copenhaver is the President this year, and I am sure it would be worth your while to attend the meeting in June if at all possible. You will be receiving information as to the place and dates.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve you as President. It has been a very rewarding and interesting experience.