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## A Responsibility and an Opportunity to Meet It

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The adequate protection of American rights and American independence is not a policy of isolation. Certainly we have an interest and a stake in the well-being of the rest of the world but America will perform its role in world affairs better if it first protects the rights and liberties of its own citizens and preserves the American form of Government against the alien concepts of government of international socialism and international Communism. We can and should give intelligent aid and advice and a measure of financial help to other countries, but there is no need to sacrifice our own basic rights and even our independence as a nation and allow our State Department in following a policy of so-called world-wide "cooperation," to yield to a program of "treaty law" undermining and destroying and giving away our precious American rights and liberties and changing our form of government. To halt these stupidities by an appropriate Constitutional amendment is not isolationism.

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## A RESPONSIBILITY AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET IT

H. GLENN KINSLEY

*"I question," said DeTocqueville years ago in writing about the legal profession in his great book DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA, "whether democratic institutions could long be maintained, and I cannot believe that a republic could subsist at the present time if the influence of lawyers in public business did not increase in proportion to the power of the people."*

*Never before in history has our country stood in greater need of what De Tocqueville described as "this admixture of lawyer-like sobriety" than now, and happily never before has there been a deeper insight than now on the part of lawyers into their responsibilities to the public, or a finer vision of the destiny of the profession.*

Lawyers of America are confronted with a problem and with the responsibility for its solution.

The problem, briefly stated, is to keep the legal profession abreast of changing conditions and to develop laws that will fit today's economic and social order.

Solution of this and related problems will be accomplished only by the constant study of changing conditions, scholarly analysis of facts, and scrupulously considered recommendation for such changes in our laws as will enhance the public welfare.

Fortunately, the opportunity now exists for the legal profession itself to provide facilities that will speed such solution. It is an opportunity for

every lawyer to help advance his own profession, as well as contribute to our nation's strength.

This opportunity is presented by the American Bar Center soon to be built in Chicago by the American Bar Foundation, which was created by the American Bar Association. The Center will be devoted in large measure to legal restarch and to making the results of research available to the profession and to the public.

Broad and continuing programs of legal research are essential if our profession is to meet its responsibility to the public and maintain its position of influence in society.

Furthermore, there is an urgent need for a "clearing house" of research activity—a place where all persons may discover the current status of any research project in the field of law, and where a study of such status may avoid vast duplication of effort.

There is no intention to set down at this time a rigid program of research that will be undertaken in the American Bar Center. More than fifty subjects of current interest that need more study than it is possible to undertake with present facilities have been suggested. To illustrate.

1. What, precisely, are the advantages and disadvantages to the public of administrative tribunals, as compared with judicial tribunals, in dispensing justice?
2. In the work of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, what, precisely, in any given project, are the facts which constitute the evil or deficiency believed to call for a remedy? What is the proper remedy? (The National Conference itself expressly recognizes the crying need for research facilities.)
3. In the administration of justice, precisely what remedy should be evolved to expedite the trial of personal injury actions? Is exactly the same remedy required in every jurisdiction? What are the facts? (It has been estimated that some 90 per cent of the cases in some of our courts involve personal injuries.)
4. What agency is to prepare for publication fully annotated copies of the Model Business Corporation Act and the Model Non-Profit Corporation Act?
5. What are the states of the Union doing and what may they do as a practical matter to educate their citizens in the background and principles of the United States Constitution and cognate subjects?
6. If a proposed statute is to be drafted to contain a new or limited definition of interstate commerce, what, precisely, are the facts which make such a statute desirable? What are the subjects now under federal control and under what statutes are they now controlled? What are the effects, economic, and other, of such a control?
7. Should the antitrust laws be restated? Can we solve economic and social problems through this type of legislation? What are the facts?

8. What is the impact of antitrust statutes on foreign trade? What are the facts?

9. We have many digests of cases, but there is no digest of statute law. Why shouldn't the American Bar Center, as a longtime job, prepare an adequate digest of all statute law and keep it up to date?

10. What sort of legislative program needs to be set up to deal with crime? What are the conditions that create organized crime? Can they be corrected through the law? What are the facts?

11. What are the facts regarding legal aid in the United States? How many people need it and use it? Should the American Bar Center work with the National Legal Aid Association in developing solutions for these problems?

In addition to being a Center for research, the new buildings will be a home for the organized bar, including the American Bar Association and affiliated organizations, but its benefits will by no means be confined to members of those groups. Its facilities are intended for the use and benefit of all lawyers everywhere, and its ultimate purpose is to serve the public. The present non-existence of such facilities has lessened the effectiveness of our profession. At no time have we been equipped to do expertly all that we have attempted to do.

The cost of building this Center and initiating work therein, will be \$2,000,000. Some \$500,000 including a bequest of \$400,000 by William Nelson Cromwell of New York, already has been contributed. This leaves \$1,500,000 which the American Bar Foundation asks the lawyers of the country to contribute toward building this Center for our profession. It is a small sum in relation to its benefits.

Operations will be financed by dues paid to the American Bar Association and by grants for research from foundations and other sources, primarily outside the legal profession.

This invitation to contribute toward building the American Bar Center is directed to all lawyers. There are many, of course, who are unable to participate actively in the work of the organized bar. They recognize, however, that it is through organized activity that the problems of the profession will be solved. Therefore, those who cannot participate in such activity are now given the opportunity to join others in contributing toward this project that will do so much for our profession and the public. Furthermore, it is hoped that the American Bar Center, with its great potentials for good, will attract many new members to the American Bar Association and that they will accompany their contributions to the American Bar Center with an application for such membership.

Each donor to the Fund will be permanently recorded, in an appropriate form, as a "Builder," of the American Bar Center.

By a formal ruling of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, your contri-

bution is deductible for federal income tax purposes. Payments over a period of three *tax years* are encouraged.

This project is unique in the lives of all of us. It will provide a World Center for a study of the development of constitutional government and the practical workings of the representative system in a democracy.

It advances the dedicated purpose of the profession to preserve and maintain liberty under law.

It offers an inspiring opportunity to develop better laws and to enable every lawyer to render legal service to his clients.

It forecasts a service for all people, their government and their courts.

You are asked to give to the American Bar Center in the fullest measure that your pride in, and your debt to, our profession warrant.

THE AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION  
123 West Madison Street - Chicago 2, Illinois

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## ADDRESS TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE BAR

FRED H. BLUME

Ladies and Gentlemen recently admitted as members of the bar.

Mr. Bostwick yesterday afternoon told you some of the trials and tribulations of lawyers. All is not gold that glitters. Life is a struggle no matter what vocation you may choose. I have no doubt that you will be able to overcome the difficulties which you may meet on your way and I shall not dwell upon them. We are glad that you have chosen the field of law as your life work. On behalf of the courts and the bar of the state, I welcome you within the folds of a noble profession, which I think is the most intellectual of all. No civilization can exist without administration of justice according to law. And in order that they may be made possible, a profession in that connection is indispensable. The profession of the common law dates back to the fourteenth century. The lawyers of England took an active part in developing the principles of justice, many of which still exist, and aided in insisting upon individual rights and upon constitutional principles which have since that time been embodied in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the various states of the Union. The profession goes back into antiquity. Cicero was one of the great trial lawyers of Rome and one of the greatest orators that has ever lived. And if it is within you, it would pay you to cultivate the art of oratory. We have had some great orators in this country: Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Calhoun, Blaine, Benjamin Harrison. It is no mean accomplishment and no mean method for getting ahead in your profession, to be able to sway the multitude or the jury by your eloquence. In the late