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Report of Legislative Committee

Wyoming State Bar

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REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The President of the Association contacted the chairman of the Legislative Committee about a month ago, requesting a report with the suggestion that it be limited to five minutes' duration. The Legislative Committee, and the member of the Association who served in the 1953 Legislature, are quite proud of their accomplishments and under ordinary circumstances would take a good deal longer to report on the work accomplished on behalf of the Bar. However, we will attempt to give you a very brief survey of the work which was enacted into law, in which the members of the Association are interested.

The committee desires, first of all, to give credit where credit is due for little could have been accomplished had we not been so ably represented by attorneys in the Legislature. For a number of years we have had a strong judiciary committee in the House and many outstanding lawyers have upheld the position of the attorneys in this body and have gotten a great deal accomplished. However, we have not been so fortunate in the Senate and, as I recall it, we had only one member of the Association for a number of years. The picture was different this year, the Senate Judiciary had the following lawyers on the committee, chaired by one layman, Dick Greene, who, let it be said, was very helpful to us. They were:

Thomas O. Miller
E. N. Moody
Byron Hirst
David N. Hitchcock

The House Judiciary was composed entirely of lawyers:

E. Keith Thomson	William F. Swanton
Robert L. Holstedt	Stanley Walters
Edward J. Redle	John F. Sullivan
William A. Riner, Jr.	Robert S. "Stan" Lowe

Our thanks to both of these committees.

Many of you were present at the legislative session of the Wyoming Bar held in Cheyenne on January 16th and 17th, 1953. We had a long session and discussed most of the bills which we will mention in this report. We are happy to say that almost all of the bills which we recommended to the Legislature for favorable action were passed and enacted into law, along with those recommended by the Legislative Committee at Torrington last year.

Perhaps the most important one to us as lawyers is Chapter 91 of the 1953 Session Laws, creating new Judges in the First and Seventh Judicial Districts. Certainly the new Judges have relieved and will relieve the pressure in these two districts as well as the other five districts. The Interim Committee and many lawyers felt that redistricting was the proper solution but I know many of us hope and feel that this is the proper answer to a troublesome problem.

Taking the other bills which we recommended favorably, in the order in which they appear, although perhaps not in the order of importance, they are as follows:

Chapter 35 relating to retired Justices and providing them with office space in the Supreme Court building.

Chapter 41 relating to District Court terms in Lincoln and Sweetwater Counties.

Chapter 79 relating to the increase of salaries of Court Reporters.

Chapter 80 relating to the increase of fees for Court Reporters at Coroner's inquest.

Chapter 86 relating to amendments in the existing law on enforcement of support for minor children.

Chapter 100 relating to the increase of salary of the Bailiff in the Supreme Court.

Chapter 101 relating to increase of salaries of the Justices of the Supreme Court and the Judges of the District Courts. Certainly this is one of the more important pieces of legislation.

Chapter 105 relating to adjustment in the amount of fees in certain civil cases.

Chapter 160 relating to the power to subpoena witnesses in civil actions in any county in the state.

Chapter 198 pertaining to fraudulent checks and increasing the amount from \$25.00 to \$75.00 for felony.

Chapter 202 relating to the assignment of District Judges to other districts in the event of death or incapacity of the Judge of the said District. This was one of the pieces of legislation recommended at our last meeting and I think the lawyers of the Seventh Judicial District realize the necessity for the same as a result of the death of Judge Murane.

Chapter 203 providing for the retirement of Judges of the Supreme and District Courts.

H.J.R. 5, being a Constitutional amendment, permitting the Legislature to increase or decrease the salaries of Justices and Judges during a term.

The only other two bills which I believe we recommended for favorable consideration, but which failed to pass, were S. F. 123, providing for the preparation of a Wyoming Digest, and H. B. 96, relating to the increase in requirements for admission to the Bar to a three year course of study in an accredited school. Determined efforts to secure passage of these two pieces of legislation failed to bring the desired results and efforts should be made to secure their passage in the 1955 Legislature.

There were several pieces of legislation not favorably recommended by the majority present at the meeting which failed to pass and which I will not discuss herein.

Of interest to the lawyers, however, were several pieces of legislation which either the Judiciary Committee introduced or which were introduced by various members of the Legislature. As I go over the Statutes I think

the more important ones are as follows:

Chapter 73 relating to the estates of missing persons and authorizing the Trustee of such estate to sell real and personal property. Chapter 28 providing that money or property belonging to a minor, not exceeding \$500.00 in value, may be paid or delivered to the parents.

Chapter 81, which is the uniform photographic copies of business and public records as Evidence Act.

Chapter 180 providing for the appointment of counsel for indigent or pauper defendants.

Chapter 192 providing for notice by the Secretary of State to corporations whose term of existence is about to expire, and permitting reinstatement of corporate franchises.

These last laws are mentioned herein in case some of you may have failed to notice them. Perhaps, too, the Legislative Committee should have recommended passage of two or three of them for they will be very helpful in many cases.

It has indeed been a pleasure to have served as your Legislative Committee. We have one positive recommendation to make and that is to urge attorneys to run for the Legislature so that we, who are most vitally affected by the legislation, will have a voice in seeing that good legislation is passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Corson
Reuel Armstrong
C. M. Crowell
Robert E. Holstedt
E. V. Magagna
James O. Wilson

REPORT OF THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE

During the past year death has taken six members of the Wyoming Bar. Of the six, three had had unusually long and illustrious careers in the profession. Two of this trio had served on the District Bench and one of the two at the time of his death was an Associate Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court. A fourth was stricken while in military service after an auspicious start in his profession, and notable activity in political affairs. The fifth had served for twenty-eight years as a Court official, and before that had been a County Attorney and a member of the Attorney General's staff. The sixth engaged actively for more than twenty years in the practice of his profession, and thereafter served with credit, if not indeed distinction, as United States Commissioner for Yellowstone National Park, in which capacity his function was judicial as well as ministerial, and of significance beyond that commonly indicated by the title of his office.