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Executive Director's Statement

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In August 1947, the Executive Committee determined that in the interests of the Bar the services of an Executive Director were necessary. Since the Committee is experimenting with the plan, it was decided to employ the Director on a part time basis until the work crystallized and the needs of the Bar were analyzed. The action of the Executive Committee was ratified by the Bar at the State convention in Bismarck in August of this year.

The new Executive Committee under President Mack V. Traynor continued the appointment, and it is well to point out that the Executive Director of the Association is a part time employee responsible to the Executive Committee, and through that Committee, of course, to the Bar.

There exists some confusion with the respect to the functions of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association and the Director which it is well to discuss briefly. The Secretary-Treasurer is an elected, constitutional officer, and his duties are defined by our by-laws. He must, as an elected official, keep the minutes, receive and disburse association moneys and keep accurate records of our finances. The Executive Committee did not and does not intend to infringe in any manner upon the duties of the Secretary, except to relieve him from the handling of correspondence and affairs of the Association which he is not required by our laws to handle.

In order that we function in an orderly manner the Executive Committee authorizes me to state that it would appreciate it if all inquiries of whatever nature were directed to the Executive Director at Grand Forks, instead of to the Secretary-Treasurer at Bismarck. The Director is given a stenographic allowance and is in close touch with the Executive Committee and is prepared to handle the Bar work and to relieve the Secretary-Treasurer of all but that correspondence which he must handle to properly discharge his responsibilities.

The Bar Association files and records, excepting those required by the Secretary, will be maintained in the Director's office. It may also be stated that William S. Murray, our Secretary-Treasurer is fully aware of this plan and concurs in it.

Complaints touching upon the unauthorized practice of law and related matters have already reached this office. These will be investigated and laid before the Executive Committee and handled in accordance with their instructions. In order to channel Association business properly the Executive Committee feels it would save considerable time if all suggestions were made to the Director, who in turn reports to the Executive Committee.

The aid of every member of the North Dakota Bar is solicited to the end that the experiment being made may be fully explored. Feel free to let us know what the Bar can do in your community and you may be certain that the wishes of the members will be accorded fullest consideration by the Executive Committee.

RONALD N. DAVIES,
Executive Director,
Grand Forks, North Dakota.