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In Re-Selection of Judicial Officers

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IN RE-SELECTION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

"The present critical re-examination of the modes of selection of judicial officers has brought to light an interesting conclusion reached many years ago by a committee of eminent public men. We quote from an article appearing in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch of November 25th, 1936, which was written by Israel Treiman, Associate Professor of Law, Washington University:

"The argument, that elected Judges are more likely to heed the popular will and less apt to take a reactionary attitude, was convincingly answered more than 20 years ago, when a special commission under the sponsorship of the National Economic League and consisting of Charles W. Eliot, Moorfield Storey, Roscoe Pound, A. J. Rodenbeck and Louis D. Brandeis, submitted the following opinion on the subject, after a thorough survey of judicial decisions in American Courts:

"The constructive work in American law was done by appointed judges, while most of the technicality of procedure, mechanical jurisprudence and narrow adherence to eighteenth-century absolute ideas, of which the public now complains, is the work of elected judges. The illiberal decisions of the last quarter of the nineteenth century, to which objections is made today, were almost wholly the work of elected Judges with short tenure. Moreover, where today we have appointed Judges these courts in conservative communities have been liberal in questions of constitutional law, where the elective Judges, holding for short terms, have been strict and reactionary'."—Oklahoma State Bar Journal.

LONG BEACH PASSES RESOLUTIONS

Appreciation of the services of Oscar J. Seiler for the betterment of the legal profession in his three years on the Board of Governors of the State Bar was spread on the records of the Long Beach Bar Association in a resolution introduced by Roscoe S. Wilkey at the Association's October meeting at Lakewood. The same resolution promised its support to Newton M. Todd, who succeeds Seiler on the board.

It being Past President's night there were three members given special honor: Seiler, Todd and Leslie Still, who has been made a judge of the Superior Court.

The resolution for Seiler and Todd expressed appreciation for the valuable services they had performed for the organization within the state of California. Of Seiler the resolution said, "The legal profession will always be indebted to this splendid man. . . ."

Past presidents who spoke briefly at the meeting were: George A. Hart, Roland G. Swaffield, Walter Desmond, Stephen H. Underwood, Roscoe S. Wilkey and Clyde Doyle. The committee in charge of the establishment of a juvenile court in Long Beach was given a vote of thanks for their work.