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Cooperation in the Bar Association

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COOPERATION IN THE BAR ASSOCIATION

As your President announces the personnel of his Committees for the ensuing year your officers are mindful of the responsibilities and the possibilities of our organization; and your suggestion, criticism and cooperation is solicited. Frank criticism at times also is no less important and helpful than suggestion and cooperation.

The purposes of the Association are thus expressed in our Constitution: "The object of this Association shall be to promote the administration of justice, uphold the honor of the profession of the law, and encourage cordial intercourse among members of the State Bar". It is our hope, that the officers and members of this Association may all be inspired to work for a more complete realization of each of these three objectives. Experience has proven, not only in respect to our own association, but to Bar Associations throughout the United States, that they afford the best medium yet devised for expression of the judgments of members

of our profession, whether it be in regard to legislation or other matters affecting the Bar. The substantial unanimity with which the bar associations all over the country successfully opposed legislation recently proposed is more than a mere indication of the efficacy of their united action. And certainly when the Bar Association speaks with any degree of unanimity, their influence is strong. Therefore, I believe that membership in the Bar Association is not only a privilege but also a duty, and the purpose of your President in enumerating and naming the membership of Committees in this number is two-fold: first, that the members of the association may realize that they are active committees, with chairmen who welcome, at all times, suggestions and counsel from individual members pertinent to matters covered by each standing committee, and second, that each committee may have the benefit of the advice and counsel of the members of the association to the end that each committee may perform its duties more efficiently and intelligently and represent the best thought of our bar. In other words, each committee is not only intended to be, but is anxious to be a clearing house for ideas which will contribute to the fulfillment of the purposes of each committee, and the association and every member of this association is not only entitled to, but is urged to assist these committees by advice and suggestions, and finally you are urged to preserve this issue of Bar Briefs, because it contains a directory of all of the standing committees of your association.

THE SPARK PLUG OF THE CONSTITUTION

Recent events, recent trends in government have caused all citizens to give more thought and study to the Constitution of these United States than perhaps in any like period since its adoption.

There is a fast spreading opinion that we must be more familiar with this, our great instrument of Government; not only its words and phrases and the thought and purposes contained in it, but the history of the events that lead to the formulation of each clause. For several generations we have left to experts an understanding of the Constitution, which should have been as familiar to every school child as to them. Why not have a copy of the Constitution in every household in this broad land of ours, with simple words in explanation of the meaning of its every phrase, and the history of its development, which would not only make future citizens word perfect, but would impart real knowledge.

We must admit that very few of us have a working knowledge of its provisions, so that we can place our finger on any certain provisions or provision and say, "This is what makes it go; this is what makes it work". These were matters of common knowledge in the period immediately following the adoption of the Constitution. It is well to regain that familiarity; and for such consideration at this time I recommend the clause reading: "This constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereto and all treaties made, or which shall be made,