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Bar Delegate System

North Dakota Law Review Associate Editors

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“But the bar associations, national and state, are slow to act. The harm that a few members are doing the whole profession has been common knowledge for years. Yet few lawyers are disbarred, as witness the kindly tolerance the North Dakota association has for certain of its members.’

“You, yourselves, know whether or not there was any justification for the North Dakota reference. It does seem as if we have had some rather astounding situations in the past, and have some at this particular moment. The North Dakota Bar has a voice, but it doesn’t use it sufficiently, and it has very seldom acted. The Committee on Press and Public Information should be taken seriously by the Bar, and the Bar, itself, needs to take itself more seriously about these matters. The Bar has a voice. It should use it. And it should act—act oftener, more definitely, and more quickly.”

Right at this moment we wonder if we do not give up too easily when we meet with rebuffs at the hands of the Legislature. Having arrived at conclusions, after careful study and consideration, and, usually, several reconsiderations, why should we lose faith in the strength of our position or in our ability to convince others of the logic of our stand and our faith in its beneficial results?

BAR DELEGATE SYSTEM

We reprint from the August issue of the Journal of the American Judicature Society the following:

“The adoption of a conference of local bar association delegates has proved a valuable adjunct to state bar meetings in several states. In Florida and Ohio such conferences are held twice a year. In California, where experiment has been in process for a number of years, to stimulate members widely to discuss bar policies, there has been an open forum to which one afternoon is assigned; all resolutions offered in the general bar sessions must first be discussed in the forum, which gives the greatest freedom for debate and is checked by deferring final action until the following day. This year’s meeting will see the forum abandoned in favor of a conference of delegates. Those who participate in the conference debates will be in a representative capacity. This will add to the influence of the many bar members who are unable to attend the meeting and will stimulate local associations to discuss live topics and select instructed delegates. It will also tend to stabilize discussion and opinion and prevent a stampede instituted by a determined minority.”

For many years we have endeavored to put into effect something similar in North Dakota. Five or six years ago the Editor suggested that all reports of committees be filed in time to enable the various district meetings to discuss them prior to the annual meeting of the State Association, and permit the casting of a representative vote at the annual meeting. The past year the Executive Committee instructed the Editor-Secretary to carry the suggestion into effect, but we failed again because committees did not file their reports and only two of the six districts held meetings.