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Public Information/Quoting Dean Pound

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

The State Bar Association of California is to be commended for the appointment of a special committee "to devise ways and means of informing the general public of the functions of the legal profession."

In starting its program, outlined by that committee, it presented to the people of California these two addresses: "The Average Man and the Law" by Dean Orrin Kip McMurray, of the University of California Law School; and "Our Judicial System" by Justice John W. Preston, of the California Supreme Court.

The Louisiana State Bar Association is also approaching public relationship problems in a very constructive manner. Under the heading of "Published through the cooperation of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Louisiana Press Association to disseminate information about laws affecting people in their daily lives, to encourage the study of constitutional government and to cherish public respect for the courts" articles are published every week in six daily and sixty-five weekly newspapers. The articles are usually limited to one thousand words.

North Dakota's efforts along this line seem to be limited to the efforts of Ransom County lawyers. Recently a four-page "Sales Day" issue carried the following:

"To vote is more than a legal duty—it is a citizen's sovereign privilege. Men in the past have fought and died for the right of the ballot. It is none of our business HOW you vote, but we sincerely hope that you WILL vote March 15th next.—Lisbon Lawyers."

QUOTING DEAN POUND

"We have had to recognize that administration, to be effective in the land of today, must be in the hands of experts, and that places on administrative boards and commissions cannot be left to the caprice of politics.

"There is general dissatisfaction with lawmaking for non-political affairs, as carried on by primarily political lawmakers. In the work of law enforcement the bad effects of a bench and magistracy in politics are manifest on every hand.

"If the quality of American justice is to be improved, we must develop a strong and settled public opinion demanding that judicial and magisterial positions be obtainable only on the ground of conspicuous fitness and that no nominating or appointing power will try to select judges and magistrates on any other basis."

To which we, respectfully, add that the mob-economy about to be practiced in this state, through a blanket percentage reduction, without proper survey as to the adequacy or inadequacy of existing salaries, is going to aggravate rather than solve some of our administrative problems. Pick and shovel administration never has been known to save private or public business anything.