



1927

## The President's Page

John H. Lewis

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr>

---

### Recommended Citation

Lewis, John H. (1927) "The President's Page," *North Dakota Law Review*. Vol. 4: No. 12, Article 2.  
Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr/vol4/iss12/2>

This Note is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Law at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in North Dakota Law Review by an authorized editor of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [und.common@library.und.edu](mailto:und.common@library.und.edu).

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A list of committee chairmen and vice-chairmen was published in October Bar Briefs. The full list of committee members will appear in December Bar Briefs, the issue which contains a report of the annual meeting.

Of eighteen committees, only two chairmen remain as before. These are Mr. Herigstad on the Citizenship Committee and Judge McKenna on the American Law Institute committee. It was felt that no one else could take the place of these experienced men, who have done such remarkable work on their committees. For the balance, it seemed that the advantage of getting new men to work for the Association counterbalanced the disadvantage of dispensing with the active services of those who have served us so well in the past. Men who have been committee chairmen are going to work for the Association anyway, and we want as large a part of the membership as possible to be active.

In appointing these committees, I have striven to do several things—to gain the interest of as large a body of lawyers as possible, to give at least proportional representation to the younger men, and to include every shade of opinion, legal, economic or political. The committee on Criminal Law should not be composed of all prosecutors; the other side has a point of view to present. The committee on Law Enforcement, the committee on Public Utilities, may well contain men who have not specialized in these subjects, and who can give us the general rather than a particular viewpoint. These are illustrations of what it was sought to do in appointing the committees.

There has, in my opinion, been far too much acrimonious dispute in this State of late years over economic questions. Lawyers have taken their part in this internecine conflict. That there should be differences of opinion is not only inevitable, it is highly desirable. Without such conflicting views no changes would be brought about, and we should still live in the Dark Ages. But intelligent and broadminded men, such as we believe ourselves to be, ought not to allow such differences to degenerate into quarrels. They should be an inspiration and an incentive to progress, not a cause of bitter hatred. We can work together for a common end all the more effectively because we argue about the means, and, so arguing, learn more than we knew. With this in view I have tried to take particular pains to have different economic viewpoints represented on our committees.

In spite of the fact that we have too many laws, there is much legislation within our particular province that might well be passed for the good of the State. To particularize would invade the province of the committees, and would bring in a mass of suggestions, only half digested. Committees which find desirable reforms in their particular line should communicate with the Legislative committee, so that it may study propositions in ample time before the Legislature meets, and decide which it ought to urge at this time. And it should, it goes without saying, make the test, not the interests of the lawyers, but the interests of the people of the State.—JOHN H. LEWIS, President.