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For the President's Page

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BAR BRIEFS

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—BY—

STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

M. L. McBride, Editor

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

In the February issue of Bar Briefs the attorneys were asked to give their views on the advisability of holding the annual meeting this year. The response was rather limited but of those who responded an overwhelming majority expressed themselves against holding a meeting. The matter was then submitted to the Executive Committee for vote pursuant to resolution adopted at the annual meeting at Grand Forks (resolution found on page 55 of the Annual Meeting Number). Seven members of the Executive Committee voted against holding the annual meeting and two voted for holding it. That means that we will have no annual meeting this year. I believe we should hold a meeting early next year if possible. In the meantime the war work will be carried on by our efficient National Defense Committee.

Your president attended the Minnesota Bar Association meeting last week and was very cordially received. The program was excellent and the attendance surprisingly good, but of course a vast majority of those in attendance were from the Twin Cities or neighboring cities. I was advised by a South Dakota attorney that the Bar of his state had dispensed with the annual meeting this year.

Those who attended the annual meeting of our Association at Grand Forks last fall will recall that the Association unanimously adopted a resolution instructing the Executive Committee to take some action on the Frazier-Lemke solicitations. The Executive Committee authorized the president of the Associa-

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tion and the Chairman of the Bar Board to employ counsel to institute proper proceedings, providing, however, that the total expense for such litigation should not exceed \$500. Francis Murphy and M. K. Higgins of Mandan were employed. They made an investigation of the matter and submitted a report wherein they expressed the belief that an injunction would lie. The matter was then submitted to the Executive Committee and they voted unanimously in favor of bringing the action, so we expect in the very near future injunctive proceedings will be brought, and also perhaps contempt proceedings in the Federal Court.

I might add that this matter as well as the question of holding the annual meeting was submitted to the Executive Committee by correspondence in order to save the expense of calling a meeting of that committee.

O. B. HERIGSTAD, President

THE LAWYER IN WARTIME*

By Francis Biddle†

It is too early in the struggle to appraise the contribution of American lawyers to the effective prosecution of the war. We may be confident, however, that when the appraisal is made the result will do honor to the profession. A substantial segment of the bar is already serving in the armed forces; the Army alone has well over 15,000 lawyers, a high proportion of them commissioned officers. Civilian agencies engaged in war work or in less dramatic but none the less essential supporting activities have drawn heavily on the bar to provide new personnel as well as to replace younger men as they are called to the colors. More than 4,000 attorneys, drawn for the most part from the active bar, have thus entered the Civil Service since the emergency began. Many more, without surrendering private practice, have responded to the repeated calls for personnel to staff the numerous boards performing such wartime functions as the administration of the Selective Service Act, the control of enemy aliens, the maintenance of harmonious labor relations, price control, rationing, local defense councils and multifarious activities of relief organizations. The War Committee of the American Bar Association has already accomplished much mobilizing the talent and energies of the organized bar behind the war program. And in every community lawyers, whatever else they may already be doing, are called upon to help explain the many government regulations which have become a painful necessity in wartime America.

Despite the great and growing contribution of the bar as a whole, it is, of course, true that many lawyers have not yet found a satisfactory mode of service. Taken by itself, the practice of law seems far away from the war. In the many areas there has been a marked decline in the volume of ordinary peacetime legal work without compensating activity incident to the war. Where that has been so, lawyers have understandably been seized with