



1928

## The President's Page

John H. Lewis

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Lewis, John H. (1928) "The President's Page," *North Dakota Law Review*. Vol. 5 : No. 2 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr/vol5/iss2/2>

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

As the session of the Legislature starts, we all realize anew that we have too many laws, and yet know that changing conditions demand new legislation. The spirit of law making in this country has been wrong. Men, seeing an evil, assume that a law can remedy it, and rush to ill considered legislation without any study of the nature of the evil or the effective remedy. Law can never be a panacea for all our troubles. For such evils as it can alleviate, it can do so much more effectively if the situation is studied carefully beforehand, and legislation framed with the aid of lawyers who have had experience in the working of existing laws.

Lawyers ought to be in the forefront of this work. The Bar Association, as a body, ought to be in the forefront when proposals have been carefully discussed at its meetings and a policy adopted. It is open to grave doubt, though there may be emergencies justifying exceptions, whether the Association as such should take any stand on proposed legislation that has not been the subject of consideration at its annual meeting.

On subjects that have not been considered by the Association, but come up in the Legislature, let us hope that the lawyers of the State, as individuals, will give them their consideration and study, and give the Legislature such aid as they are able in arriving at a wise solution.

On one subject particularly there is practical unanimity, and the Association has taken a definite stand. That is for a substantial increase of salary for judges. The Committee on Legislation is supporting the bill, under a mandate from the Association. All state salaries are probably too low, but the evil is a comparatively minor one as applied to officials who hold office for a short term, and a crying disgrace as applied to judges whose life work is on the Bench. A judge, once elected, loses his law practice, and can with great difficulty regain it. The time is fast approaching when we cannot get efficient men on the Bench for the salaries we pay. A few thousand dollars spent in paying good men will save itself many times over. It is to be hoped that the lawyers of the State as a whole will take an active interest in this act of belated justice.

We should make no apology for lobbying. Honest and aboveboard lobbying is honorable and useful activity. No men are perfect, and the legislators have far too much to do to be able to give every proposition the study it deserves. They should, and I believe they will, welcome aid given them in good faith. The lobbying which is reprehensible, and which has brought the word into disrepute, is the endeavor to secure or block legislation in behalf of special interests, while concealing the lobbyist's connection with or employment by such interests. That is plain dishonesty, as much as if a Judge on the Bench were to be secretly retained by one of the parties to a lawsuit.—PRESIDENT JOHN H. LEWIS.

## REVIEW OF NORTH DAKOTA DECISIONS

A. E. ANGUS

*Hulett vs. Snook.* Board of Township Supervisors entered an order laying out a public highway and awarding damages to the owner of the land taken for highway purposes. The owner appealed to district court, and thereafter the Board entered a second order, the first order being defective, in that it did not describe the land properly. No appeal taken from the second order. Trial on appeal from first order, plaintiff appearing in person and by attorney and stipulating that the appeal