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Pro And Con

Richard E. Wenzel

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BAR BRIEFS

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STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Richard E. Wenzel, Editor

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PRO AND CON

"All this talk about ethics and ethical conduct in the legal profession is pure hokum. . . What's wrong in a lawyer's employing a runner or ambulance chaser? He is merely out to get new business by resorting to the services of a traveling salesman the same as every other progressive business man. . . Why shouldn't the specialist in negligence practice tell the world through his runners or ambulance chasers that he has just won a \$50,000 verdict or settlement for his client who lost a leg through the recklessness of a drunken automobilist? . . . As long as traction companies and liability insurance companies, engaged in business for private profit, will exist to contest our just claims for damages so long will ambulance chasers be with us. The only way to exterminate them is by nationalizing the legal profession, making every lawyer a salaried employee of the state. Under such conditions he will be in reality rather than in theory an officer of the court on equal footing with the judge and prosecutor."—From a letter in the New York World.

"When Charles E. Hughes presented a petition to the appellate division of the Supreme Court in the first department, asking for an inquiry into the practice of ambulance chasing, he declared that the action was historic. Mr. Hughes did not exaggerate. The appellate division granted the petition and today the public inquiry gets under way. . . It will be surprising indeed if the action of the appellate divisions in New York State does not bring about a nation-wide reform. Such a development should not pass unnoticed. All concerned, however, should realize that the fight against the ambulance chaser has only begun. It is a fight that must be pushed with the greatest energy and determination if it is to succeed."—Editorial in Brooklyn Eagle.

What is the North Dakota Bar Association going to do about this subject? It presents a problem, and it isn't a one-sided one. The tougher the jacket of controversy, however, the sweeter the kernel of achieved results. Let's tackle a few of the "tough" ones this year.