

LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT for members of the Law and Society Association occurred March 14-17: the American Assembly on Law and the Changing Society. The significance is at least two-fold. First, the structure of American law was critically examined in the context of contemporary reality; second, social change—and its effect on law—was recognized and treated seriously. All of this occurred in an atmosphere of sincere concern for reform, rather than in the solitude of academic discourse, and the participants in the Assembly were people with the “clout” required to begin a program of reform.

Our membership can be proud of the impact the Association has had on the Assembly, which is and will be revealed by documents resulting from the Assembly: The Report and a compendium of the papers presented.

The Report is organized under headings which suggest socio-legal formulations of the problem of law and social change, rather than traditional legal headnotes: The Institutions of Society, Legal Services, Education, Research and Technology, Justice and Respect for Law. At one point, the Consensus Report announces:

Research is important to the rational analysis and evaluation of legal services and institutions. There is need for detailed study of the effects of particular legal arrangements, and for basic and applied research into law. The conduct of such research will require closer connection between law and the behavioral sciences.

The compendium of papers contains the following chapter headings: Structural Change in American Society, Effects of Social Change in Legal Analysis, Changing Demands on the Legal Profession, Education in and about Law. Most of the authors of the papers are members of this Association.

The socio-legal study of law is entering its potentially finest hour. Judges, lawyers, legislators, legal scholars (to name only a few con-

cerned) are realizing that "law" and "society" are identical, that socio-legal research and teaching are indispensable to the functioning of the legal system. Most encouraging is the self-examination of the legal profession—a long overdue exercise.

For some years, students of Law and Society have been critical of the apathy and resistance of the legal system and its guardians. We have insisted that they have not heard our pleas for systematic examination of the legal order and the legal profession. We have conducted our research secure in the notion that no one, outside ourselves, would take our results and our suggestions seriously. It may be that the lawmen were and are listening and that they will be asking for a great deal more from us, soon! Can we justify our criticism of the legal order and profession with creative scholarship? It seems to me that the challenge has been offered; our hour must be fine.

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At their spring meeting in Chicago on May 4, the Trustees of the Association welcomed two new members: Law Professor Alfred F. Conard, University of Michigan, and Psychology Professor Brendan A. Maher, Brandeis University. The Board met in conjunction with the Mid-West Political Science Association, whose program was heavily seasoned with Law and Society topics. Robert B. Yegge, Richard D. Schwartz and Jack Ladinsky were re-elected as President, Editor and Treasurer, respectively. Mark S. Massel was elected Secretary (unfortunately, as this issue went to press, we learned of his inability to accept this position—which remains, for the moment, vacant). Yegge and Schwartz will be serving their final year as President and Editor during the forthcoming year. The Board has chosen Samuel Krislov of University of Minnesota as Editor of the *Law & Society Review* beginning with Volume Four [August, 1969—*ed.*]; the Board will select a President-Elect at its Fall meeting to succeed Yegge. The Board invites your suggestions for nominees for the Presidency.

Some important events are planned for the forthcoming year. This summer two institutes will be held: Behavioral Science and the Law at the University of Wisconsin, and Social Science Methods in Legal Education at the University of Denver College of Law. The former will offer graduate courses and seminars on the political, social, economic and legal aspects of the legal system; the latter will explore social science knowledge and methods with eighteen law professors. Sessions of par-

ticular interest to Law and Society Association members will be held during the meetings of the American Sociological Association (Boston, August 1968), the American Anthropological Association (Seattle, Fall 1968), and the Association of American Law Schools (New Orleans, December 1968). In the first months of 1969, a meeting exclusively for the membership of the Law and Society Association will be held at the Harvard Law School—arrangements to be made by Professor Herbert Jacob—details of which will be found in the next President's message [August, 1968 issue—*ed.*].

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I have been honored to serve these first years as President of the Law and Society Association; with Red Schwartz, I look forward to our last year in office. As the first section of this message reflects, I am proud of the important contribution which the Association and its official voice, the *Law & Society Review*, have made to the development of scholarship and education about the legal system. Yet, there is much remaining to be accomplished. The Association shall continue as a pivotal force in the process. During my final year as President, I shall devote a substantial portion of this space to exploration of problems and areas of concern for students of law and society. I trust you will be critical, yet constructive, of my thoughts.

—ROBERT B. YEGGE

SUMMER INSTITUTE ANNOUNCED

The Sociology and Law Program at the University of Wisconsin announces that an Institute in Behavioral Science and the Law will be held at Madison this summer. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Institute will offer graduate courses and seminars on the political, social, economic, and legal aspects of legal systems. The focus will be interdisciplinary, and the faculty will include professors from the disciplines of Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Law, and Anthropology. Students who are admitted will receive a stipend and travel allowance, and may receive graduate credit for courses taken. For further information write to:

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