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Ryan Opposes Closing One of IU's Law Schools

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

Seeks more cooperation

Ryan opposes closing one of IU's law schools

The Courier-Journal Bureau

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Suggestions that one of Indiana University's two law schools should be closed have been totally rejected by IU President John W. Ryan.

Ryan plans to name an advisory committee of lawyers and judges to search for ways to improve cooperation between the schools — one in Bloomington and the other in Indianapolis. But he said in an interview that he would not support the closing of either school.

Ryan was responding to a report Tuesday in The Indianapolis Star quoting Chief Justice Richard M. Givan of the Indiana Supreme Court as saying that if the two schools are not combined, "the division between them will grow and grow — much to the detriment of the Bloomington school."

The Star report quoted Givan as saying that both schools presently suffer in terms of funds and alumni contributions.

The controversy over the two schools is long-standing. Thirteen months ago William F. Harvey, dean of the law school at Indianapolis, wrote to the deans of Indiana's three other law schools —

Douglass Boshkoff of IU-Bloomington, Thomas L. Shaffer of Notre Dame and Alfred W. Meyer of Valparaiso University — explaining that the IU trustees supported the development of an Indiana Legal Research Center in Indianapolis.

He wrote that the center "would probably absorb all of the law library here (Indianapolis), and perhaps a substantial part of the law library in Bloomington, too."

Boshkoff replied to Harvey, telling him, "Your reference to our library is disturbing."

Boshkoff wrote, "Absorption of even part of our library by another entity is wholly inconsistent with the present teaching and research mission of this school and would impair the quality of legal education available in Indiana."

A Bloomington attorney who did not want to be identified said, "That's a hell of a way to get a judicial building."

The reference was to a proposed courts building in Indianapolis that would remove the state judges from the State-

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house. The idea, the attorney said, is to build the judicial building near the Indianapolis Law school and to house the proposed Indiana Legal Research Center in it.

implicit in the plan is the understand-

ing that the Bloomington law school, shorn of its library, would die.

Boshkoff explained in an interview yesterday that, in general terms, the Bloomington school is seen as a theoretical ivory tower school, and the Indianapolis school as being oriented to practical lawyering. But he stressed that he believes those descriptions to be over-generalizations.

"Indianapolis has a larger clinical program than Bloomington," Boshkoff said. "If lawyers are wanted to teach as adjunct faculty members, it can be done easier there because there's a larger pool from which to draw."

But he said the Bloomington school can offer more joint-degree programs because there is a much wider subject-range on the Bloomington campus, making interdisciplinary work more practical.

"As a gardener, I have learned not to fight nature, not to fight the environment," Boshkoff said. "And I think we should apply that to this situation. It's silly to require both schools to be the same."

He pointed out that the so-called Willbern Committee, which worked out last year's administrative reorganization of the university, suggested the continuation of separate law schools.

And he said that there is cooperation between the two schools: Faculty members from one school have taught at the

other when necessary; students from one school can take classes at the other, provided there is classroom space; it is possible for a student to transfer from one school to the other, and there is considerable cooperation between the law libraries of the two schools.

One of the areas the Ryan advisory committee is to study is increased transferability of students, faculty and courses. Another is the possibility there should be a single chief for both schools.

Boshkoff, who has been dean since 1971, submitted his resignation earlier this year, effective Jan. 15, 1976, pointing out that he will be on sabbatical leave this coming spring and the search for the new dean should begin before he leaves. He will return to the classroom to teach his specialty, bankruptcy.

Ryan is in the process of selecting a search and screen committee to seek out a new dean.

On Ryan's recommendation, the board of trustees at last Friday's meeting agreed that the two schools be called "Indiana University School of Law—Bloomington" and "Indiana University School of Law—Indianapolis," and that identical diplomas be awarded from each school.

That is not sitting well in Indianapolis, where there is a strong feeling to retain the name the school had before it became a part of IU — "Indianapolis Law School."