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Specialization Could Cut Cost

John Fancher
Herald Times

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

Specialization Could Cut Cost

Herald Teleph. 11/14/72

By JOHN FANCHER
H-T Civic Affairs Editor

It would be less costly to graduate specialists from law schools than it is to graduate specialists from medical schools, says Douglas Boshkoff, new dean of the Indiana University Law School at Bloomington. The dean's statement was made in light of a proposal by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education that law schools give some thought to certification of legal specialists in much the same way medical schools provide certification of medical specialists.

Boshkoff said he has not yet seen the Carnegie report, and "it's hard to

make a judgment without having seen it." However, he has read about the report, including excerpts from it which appeared in a New York Times story.

A lawyer today specializes by going to work for a firm and "getting exposure" to a particular area of law that interests him or her.

"After five or 10 years, you're a specialist," said Boshkoff. "It's not a choice that's made ahead of time (in law school)," he added. However, Boshkoff believes if law schools decide to graduate specialists "the time spent in law school to specialize would not necessarily be increased."

He pointed out the last year of the three years required in law schools might be used for specialized training.

"If law schools see the need to service the legal profession (in this way), they will," he added.

The same answer is applicable to a Carnegie proposal that law schools consider creation of special

training and job categories for paraprofessionals to engage in many law-related activities which do not require full legal training.

Boshkoff cited paraprofessionals do such things as simple title work, income tax returns and real estate transactions.

"A lot of people are doing legal work without (formal) training," said Boshkoff, citing that up to now law firms have been "training their own", paraprofessionals.

The Carnegie report, which has not been endorsed by the commission but was

released for public discussion, was prepared by Herbert L. Packer and Thomas Ehrlich, two Stanford University law professors.

Packer and Ehrlich charge legal education continues in a "common (Cont. d on Page 2, Col. 3)

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and this is effective in small mold based largely on ob- classes during the first year of law school. However, they believe the continuance of such study in the second and third years becomes dull for a lot of students.

They say the "case system" developed by Harvard teaches legal principles through a study of appellate court decisions,

Packer and Ehrlich suggest law school training be reduced from three years to two years to make the course of study more

flexible and to leave time for more options for internship in a variety of specialities.

Would a specialist graduate from a law school command bigger fees as do specialists graduated from medical school?

Boshkoff says this wouldn't be necessarily the case. For one thing, lawyers graduated as specialists

would not have the investment in education as do doctors graduated as specialists from medical schools.

However, the legal specialist offering quality service might well attract higher income just as in the case today. The best lawyer in a field in a locale now does that.

Weather

Gradual clearing and cooler tonight. Lows in the mid to upper 30s. Mostly sunny and a little warmer Sunday. Highs in the mid to upper 50s. Chances of rain: Five per cent tonight and 10 per cent Sunday.