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Bar of Other States

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BAR OF OTHER STATES

*Laymen Forbidden to Practice Before Ohio Industrial Commission**

Practice by laymen before boards, commissions, bureaus and other administrative agencies, which has developed in recent years a considerable body of non-professional practitioners, was given a body blow by a decision of the Ohio Supreme Court recently. On the petition of the Committee on Unauthorized Practice of the Law of the Ohio State Bar Association, the Supreme Court granted a writ of prohibition against the State Industrial Commission and the individual members thereof which restrained them from permitting laymen to practice before them as a commission.

Plaintiff's brief in this case was based on three simple propositions:

"1. The admission to the practice of law is a judicial act making the attorney an officer of the judicial branch of the government.

"2. The practice of law is confined only to such persons that have been admitted to the bar.

"3. The acts of persons, laymen and corporations permitted by the defendants constitute the practice of law."

The order was to be in the form of a consent decree, as no one appeared to contest plaintiff's contentions. The Journal entry had not yet been submitted to counsel for defendants or to the court for approval at the time of going to press. However, according to Mr. Sol. Goodman, an active plaintiff in the litigation, it will prohibit the Industrial Commission from permitting anyone other than a lawyer to appear before it in a representative capacity at any of the hearings.
