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Bar of Other States

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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.

AMERICAN BAR

1935 Meeting of the American Bar

An old carpenter’s mallet, glorified beyond its estate with bands of gold and silver, will, for the fifty-seventh year, boom out its command for silence when the American Bar Association members assemble in Los Angeles on July 15 for the opening day of the annual meeting.

Trimmed by the Colorado Bar Association for the second time in 1926 with bands of virgin silver and gold from the Pikes Peak region, the hickory gavel is in reality an old carpenter’s mallet that was purchased for seventeen cents in 1878 when the American Bar Association was founded. Since that date the mallet has made its appearance at every meeting.

Nearly five thousand lawyers will hear its command on July 15 when Scott M. Loftin, president of the association, raps for order. Advance hotel and special train reservations indicate that the national gathering will be well attended. Several reports of national importance are scheduled. The Commerce Committee has been gathering data throughout the year to present to the assembly. During March the committee held public hearings in New York City on certain transportation and communication problems. Various national figures, including Joseph B. Eastman, federal transportation coordinator, appeared before the committee at this hearing.

Especial interest has been engendered throughout the year in the work of the National Bar Program and of the Coordination Committee. Two open meetings dealing with National Bar subjects will be held. One, under the auspices of the section on legal education and admissions to the bar, will

*Information furnished by the American Bar Association Committee on Unauthorized Practice of Law,