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The President's Page: Law and Order or Self Destruction

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*The West Virginia Bar Association*

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The President's Page

LAW AND ORDER OR SELF DESTRUCTION?

Civil disobedience of our law has been increasing for some time, and much of the time with the encouragement or approval of religious, educational, professional, political and governmental leaders of prominence. This, at a time when discipline and responsibility are needed to maintain democracy and the American way of life in this country. The educated are charged with a higher degree of responsibility for their actions than the uneducated, and therefore should be held to a higher degree of accountability for the results. The great increase in world population and its needs demand, more than ever, that society discipline itself and abide by the laws, rules and regulations adopted to preserve and further the rights and privileges of all. Extremism breeds extreme opposition, which can and often does delay or destroy the goal which is sought. Most of what America has achieved is good. No other country has achieved as much. That which is wanting can be supplied and become good, but changes and progress must be by lawful and orderly means. When we see a fire, we have a choice. We can stand by and watch, we can add fuel, or we can help put the fire out. As citizens and lawyers, we have an obligation to help put this fire out.

RECOMMENDED READING: Chapter 61, Article 1, Section 5 of the West Virginia Code.

Plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Bar Association at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, August 30 and 31. An interesting program is scheduled.

James H. Coleman, Jr.
President