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President's Page

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West Virginia Bar Association

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President's Page

The Executive Council of The West Virginia Bar Association met in Charleston on Monday, January 14, 1963. All routine business of the Council was concluded and plans for the program of the Annual Meeting are being carried forward. In the Centennial Year of West Virginia we expect to present a program of current interest to all of the members, all of the speakers being West Virginians.

The Council was extremely gratified by the willingness of the membership of the Association to serve on the appointed committees. Without exception all appointments were graciously accepted and it is apparent that the committees of the Association will accomplish much in this year.

One of the matters which seems to be of current interest to lawyers arises from the passage of HR 10 by the last Congress, (Self-Employed Individuals Retirement Act of 1962). Everyone is joining in the search for "security" and it seems that lawyers are no exception. We shall endeavor to present an outstanding speaker on this subject as a part of the Annual Meeting so that the membership can be fully advised about the application of this law. Such an address will be very timely as the Treasury Department has not yet promulgated regulations under the Act and the benefits of the Act are at this time subject to question. Certainly this Act did not deserve all of the publicity it received at the time of its passage. The A.B.A. Special Committee on Lawyers Retirement Plan has issued a report cautioning lawyers and bar associations against premature action in this field. This committee recommends that it would be desirable for all associations and lawyers to postpone definite action under HR 10 until many difficult legal and administrative questions have been carefully studied and until Treasury regulations, when promulgated, have been explored. The A.B.A., through its committees, is studying a plan which might be available to all members of the Association.

The Committee on American Citizenship of The American Bar Association is publishing a series of "Sources of Our Liberties" booklets which will be available during this year. These booklets are extremely valuable reference materials for high school and col-

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lege students and for all teachers of history and civics. We recommend to the local bar associations throughout the State that they investigate this collection of historical documents of our political system and consider making a complete series of these pamphlets available to each high school in West Virginia, either through its library or the history department of such school.

Bar associations across the nation may soon be faced with taking a stand on constitutional questions involving the balance of state and federal power. Many of our state legislatures are being asked to consider proposed constitutional amendments curbing the power of the federal government and the authority of the United States Supreme Court. At a meeting of the General Assembly of the States held in Chicago last December this group sponsored constitutional amendments which would (1) establish a “Court of the Union” with authority to review and reverse Supreme Court decisions relating to the rights reserved to the states under the Federal Constitution, (2) eliminate Federal judicial authority over the apportionment of state legislatures and (3) simplify provisions under which state legislatures could initiate amendments to the Constitution.

I expect to attend the New Orleans meeting of The National Conference of Bar Presidents on February 2nd and 3rd. I hope that I will be exposed to some new idea or bar program which will prove beneficial to this Association.

George G. Bailey