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President's Page

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West Virginia Bar Association

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The business sessions of the 75th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Bar Association, were held at White Sulphur Springs, beginning on August 31st and extending through September 2nd, 1961. The registration at this meeting was the highest in recent times. The sessions were well attended.

The variety of the program, no doubt, brought about this interest. It ranged from a very timely and mundane address on the role of the lawyer in securing new jobs and new growth for the community, to one that was not as academic as the title would suggest. It was entitled “Philosophy and Administration in the Independent Agency.” Considering the broad activities of government, both state and national, in today's society, this address pointed up the background and purpose of modern administrative activities on the part of government.

The report of the Committee on Constitutional Revision brought to the surface, again, the honest differences of opinion existing in the Bar over the amendments to the judicial section of the West Virginia Constitution. Other than those lawyers who are actively engaged in it, and those who have interested themselves in the activities of the Commission on Constitutional Revision, presently at work on amendments to our Constitution, it is doubtful that very many lawyers in West Virginia are as cogently informed about these studies as they should be. There is hardly any other project now being undertaken that could be of more concern to the lawyers of West Virginia.

The program also encompassed papers on the everyday activities of the lawyer. One involved negligence actions. It was delivered in good style by an experienced trial lawyer who described the tools valuable to, and necessary for, a lawyer engaged in this type of practice. The merit of oral argument, particularly in appellate practice, was the subject of a jocular but enlightening address by an appellate judge.

The membership of the Association remains approximately the same. The level is not as high as the officers feel it should be, how-
ever, it is sufficient to continue our financial support of the *Law Review*, and, thus, provide a highly useful publication for the West Virginia Bar which might not otherwise be available.

The Committees of the Association have carried on the work with the usual standard of competence, and, upon publication of the Year Book, will provide further avenues of information for the lawyers of West Virginia.

It would be helpful to the Executive Council, and thus to the Bar, if the lawyers will suggest projects for the Committees. The press of daily practice should not prevent the suggestion of subjects for studies which could be useful and valuable. Situations arise in West Virginia in daily practice which need study and ventilation by legally trained minds.

*Clarence E. Martin, Jr.*