

LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ALMOST THREE YEARS HAVE PASSED since the Law and Society Association held its first and organizational meeting. Originally, the group was concerned with the broad (and somewhat vague) task of identifying, and thereafter drawing together, people who were committed to the systematic study of law and society. Many scholars and practitioners with interests in sociolegal studies have been identified—they are the present membership base of the Association. There are more such persons for whom the Association offers a forum for sharing a mutual concern in the study of law and society.

Commitment to the systematic study of law and society was sufficient reason for the original organizational efforts of the Association. After three years, however, more specificity of purpose is required. In rough outline, at least five categories of activity in which the Association has participated can be identified. In total, these categories begin to clarify the purposes for which the Association presently exists. The Association will constantly examine its activities—with a view toward the sharper statement of its purposes—ever aware of necessary flexibility in a field in which change has pervasive and profound effect.

A Source of Information. This second issue of the *Law and Society Review* is an example of the order of scholarly and professional information which the Association is charged to make available to its members. The Editor and the student editorial board urge submission of relevant material for its pages. To generate knowledge in a field so vital, the work of our colleagues must be shared. The pages of the *Review* offer the forum.

Brokerage of Ideas. Jointly with the Association of American Law Schools, the Association received a grant from the Walter E. Meyer Research Institute of Law and the Russell Sage Foundation to sponsor a Methods in Legal Education Summer Institute. For five weeks, law professors will be exposed to sociolegal research methods. The Institute will be held at the University of Denver June 26 through July 28. Twenty-three law professors are participants. The methods and knowledge of the various social sciences applicable to sociolegal studies will be shared with teachers of law. This forum, a pioneer effort, will indeed broker

ideas toward development and encouragement of a growing cadre of interdisciplinary scholars.

Interdisciplinary Sessions at Professional Meetings. The American Political Science Association meeting in Chicago, Illinois, September 5 through 9, will feature a panel on "Law As an Instrument of Social Change" and a round table on "Free Speech, Freedom of Press and Privacy." The program of the Association of American Law Schools meeting in Detroit, Michigan in December, 1967 includes a round table on "Implications for Legal Research by Developments in the Computer Field." The annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and the American Sociological Association in San Francisco, August 27 through 29, will offer a round table luncheon and three sessions on aspects of the Sociology of Law.

Training and Interdisciplinary Work. The Social Science Methods in Legal Education Institute (nicknamed SSMILE) has been noted. This *Review* begins, in summer 1967, a summer program for graduate and law students concentrating in sociolegal studies. Selected students from Law and Society centers will meet for six weeks in Evanston, Illinois to plan and implement future issues of the *Review*. The experience provides an intense training program for students through systematic exposure to the current writings of the field and a sharing of the formal training each is receiving at his institution.

Improvement of Interdisciplinary Scholars. All of the activities noted above illustrate concrete examples of the attempts of the Association to "improve the breed."

The Law and Society Board of Trustees met in Chicago, Illinois on April 1, 1967 to consider the growing business of the Association. Significant business transacted at the meeting included the adoption of Bylaws for the Association, and the election of officers who are, for 1967-68: Robert B. Yegge, *President*; Ernest M. Jones, *Secretary*; Jack Ladinsky, *Treasurer*; and Richard D. Schwartz, *Editor*.

Perpetually on the agenda for Board consideration is a review and re-evaluation of the activities in relation to and toward further definition of the purposes for which the Association exists. The "proximate cause" of the development of the Association is the individual concerns and interests of the membership of the Association. Your ideas are urgently solicited.

—ROBERT B. YEGGE, *President*