

RELEASE: AFTER 2 P.M., MONDAY, AUG. 6TH

*Hand*  
PRESIDENT MESERVE'S REPORT TO  
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 7TH  
1973 ANNUAL MEETING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE:

YOU HAVE HEARD FROM ME ONCE TODAY SO I PROPOSE TO MAKE  
MY VALEDICTORY REPORT THIS AFTERNOON QUITE BRIEF.

IN DEFERENCE TO YOUR VERY HEAVY AGENDA, I SHALL REFRAIN  
FROM ANY REVIEW OF THE PAST BUSY YEAR BECAUSE THAT WILL BE  
COVERED IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL. AND I AM CONTENT  
TO LEAVE TO OTHERS AND TO TIME ANY EVALUATION OF THE TOTAL WORK  
OF THE ASSOCIATION DURING MY STEWARDSHIP.

I WILL SAY ONLY THAT NO ONE COULD HAVE TRAVELED THE EQUIVALENT OF AT LEAST TEN TIMES AROUND THE WORLD IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, AS I HAVE, AND HAVE MADE WELL OVER 200 SPEAKING APPEARANCES BEFORE BAR GROUPS AND MANY OTHER AUDIENCES WITHOUT COUNTING IT AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE. IT HAS REINFORCED MY CONVICTION THAT LAWYERS GENERALLY ARE CONCERNED WITH SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS; ARE ESSENTIALLY HONEST AND HARDWORKING WITH A DESIRE TO DO GOOD, BEYOND THAT OF MOST GROUPS IN OUR SOCIETY, AND THAT THEY ARE COMMITTED TO A MATTER-OF-FACT ADHERENCE TO HIGH ETHICAL AND MORAL STANDARDS. CERTAINLY I CAN ENDORSE WITHOUT RESERVATION HARRY TWEED'S FAMOUS DICTUM ABOUT THE PLEASURES OF BEING IN THE COMPANY OF LAWYERS -- NOW EVEN MORE SO BECAUSE OF THE LARGER NUMBERS OF LADIES IN OUR GROUP.

YET I WOULD HAVE TO CONCEDE THAT, BECAUSE OF RECENT  
EVENTS INVOLVING LAWYERS IN HIGH PLACES IN THE GREATEST  
POLITICAL SCANDAL IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY, WHAT YOU  
AND I KNOW TO BE TRUE ABOUT THE RECTITUDE OF MOST OF OUR  
COLLEAGUES AT THE BAR IS NOT ACCEPTED AS TRUE BY A LARGE SEGMENT  
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE  
PRESTIGE OF OUR PROFESSION HAS SUFFERED A SERIOUS BLOW BY THE  
DISCLOSURES OF WATERGATE.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE FIRST OF TWO POINTS I WANT TO  
MAKE IN THIS REPORT:

THE FIRST IS THAT WE CANNOT, AND WE MUST NOT, FAIL TO  
RESPOND TO THIS CHALLENGE. WITHOUT PREJUDGING THE GUILT OF  
ANYONE, THE LEAST WE CAN DO TO RIGHT -- IN THE PUBLIC EYE --

THE GREAT WRONGS OF THE LAWYERS, IF ANY, WHO HAVE BETRAYED  
THEIR PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS OR VIOLATED THE CRIMINAL LAWS  
IS TO LEND OUR EFFORTS TO SEE TO IT THAT PROMPT AND APPROPRIATE  
DISCIPLINARY ACTION IS TAKEN BY THE PROFESSION AND THE COURTS.

I AM CONFIDENT THIS WILL BE DONE; NEW YORK ALREADY HAS  
DISBARRED ONE LAWYER AND I AM TOLD THAT OTHER STATES HAVE BEGUN  
INVESTIGATIONS AS TO OTHERS. BUT I WOULD URGE YOU IN THIS HOUSE,  
WHO ARE THE CHOSEN LEADERS OF THE BAR IN YOUR JURISDICTIONS, TO  
EXERT YOUR PERSONAL INFLUENCE TO THAT END IN EVERY STATE IN  
WHICH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROFESSIONAL ACTION MAY LIE.

AND WHILE THE WATERGATE AFFAIR IS FOREMOST NOW IN THE  
PUBLIC MIND I AM NOT SUGGESTING IT IS THE ONLY SITUATION IN  
WHICH A GREATER CONCERN ABOUT DISCIPLINE IS NEEDED. OUR SELF-

POLICING RESPONSIBILITY NEEDS TO BE PURSUED MORE VIGOROUSLY ON EVERY FRONT IF WE ARE TO BE TRUE TO OURSELVES. WE CANNOT EQUIVOCATE ON THIS ISSUE IF WE VALUE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE POLICING OUR OWN RANKS.

AT THE PRESENT TIME THIS ASSOCIATION IS ACTIVATING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE AUTHORIZED BY THIS HOUSE AT THE MIDYEAR MEETING. ITS FUNCTION WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST THE STATE AND LOCAL BAR DISCIPLINARY AGENCIES TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE AND INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCES, AND TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT.

THAT NEW FACILITY CAN AND WILL BE OF SOME AID IN THE UPGRADING OF DISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS CALLED FOR IN THE CLARK COMMITTEE REPORT OF THREE YEARS AGO, A PROCESS NOW GOING ON.

BUT IT IS NOT THE TOTAL ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM WE FACE, BY ANY MEANS. THE ABA HAS NO DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY, AS YOU KNOW; THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE AND CARRY OUT INVESTIGATIONS RESTS WITH THE STATES IN WHICH OFFENDING LAWYERS WERE LICENSED TO PRACTICE. BUT THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION MUST -- AND I AM SURE IT WILL -- PROVIDE HELP IN WHATEVER WAYS IT CAN TO MEET THIS PROFESSION-WIDE OBLIGATION.

YOU SHOULD KNOW ALSO THAT AT ITS SPRING MEETING THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS CREATED A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, WHICH LAST WEEK HELD ITS FIRST MEETING UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF FORMER CHAIRMAN WM. SPANN, JR., OF THIS HOUSE.

THIS IS NOT ANOTHER WATERGATE INQUIRY, BUT AN EFFORT ON

THE PART OF THIS ASSOCIATION TO EXPLORE MEANS BY WHICH THE  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND RELATED PROSECUTORIAL ARMS OF THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN BE BETTER INSULATED FROM PARTISAN  
INFLUENCES -- OR ANY OTHER INFLUENCES -- WHICH MAY BE ALIEN  
TO THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND OBJECTIVITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION  
OF JUSTICE. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING WHICH CAN MAKE A  
SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD RESTORATION OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE  
IN THE PROCESSES OF JUSTICE IN THE FEDERAL SYSTEM.

THE SECOND SUBJECT I WILL TOUCH UPON IS MORE PLEASANT,  
AND IN THE LONG RUN PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT.

IT HAS TO DO WITH THE IMMENSE AND GROWING POTENTIAL OF  
THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND THE ROLE OF THIS HOUSE WITH RESPECT  
TO THAT PHENOMENON.

THE LAWYER POPULATION NOW IS IN THE VICINITY OF  
375,000 AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL SURPASS 400,000 WITHIN THE  
OR THREE  
NEXT TWO YEARS. OUR ASSOCIATION ENROLLED MORE THAN 18,000  
NEW MEMBERS IN THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, THE LARGEST TOTAL SINCE  
THE MAJOR CAMPAIGN OF 1956 DURING SMYTHE GAMBRELL'S PRESIDENCY,  
AND TODAY OUR ROSTER HAS REACHED ~~OVER ONE HUNDRED~~ 170,000. WE  
HAVE GOOD REASON TO HOPE THAT WE WILL TOP THE 200,000 MARK BY  
THE TIME WE CELEBRATE THE ASSOCIATION'S CENTENNIAL IN 1977-78.

SO OUR NUMERICAL STRENGTH IS RISING AND OUR POTENTIAL  
FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT MUST KEEP PACE. HOW WELL WE SUCCEED DEPENDS  
NOT ALONE ON THE OFFICERS, THE THOUSANDS OF LAWYERS WHO WORK  
IN THE SECTIONS AND COMMITTEES, OR ON THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
AT HEADQUARTERS. IT DEPENDS MOST OF ALL UPON YOU IN THIS HOUSE



-- UPON YOUR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING ROLES WHICH GROWTH IS THRUSTING UPON US. HERE IN THIS HOUSE IS WHERE THE REAL AUTHORITY LIES, AND YOU ARE THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WIELD THAT POWER AND WHO WILL HAVE MOST TO SAY ABOUT OUR FUTURE COURSE.

YOU REALIZE AS I DO THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WILL DEAL WITH A CALENDAR THAT COMPRISES AN ARRAY OF IMPORTANT ISSUES CONCERNED WITH THE ONGOING WORK OF THIS GREAT ASSOCIATION.

I SAY THIS IN VIEW OF ONE PUBLISHED SUGGESTION THAT WE DROP ALL SCHEDULED WORK AND DEVOTE THE ENTIRE ANNUAL MEETING TO A CONSIDERATION OF WATERGATE. WHILE I REGARD WATERGATE AS IMPORTANT, AS I HAVE ALREADY SAID, I REALLY AM AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND THE SUGGESTION BOTH BECAUSE I AM SURE WE HAVE NO

DESIRE TO DUPLICATE THE INVESTIGATIONS NOW GOING ON IN THE  
SENATE AND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL COX,  
AND BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THE OTHER MATTERS ON THE CALENDAR  
ARE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT.

THE SUGGESTION CAME, I MIGHT ADD, FROM A LAWYER WHO  
OBVIOUSLY HAS LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCOPE OF THIS  
ASSOCIATION'S WORK, POSSIBLY BECAUSE HE IS NOT A MEMBER OF  
THE ASSOCIATION AND SO FAR AS I KNOW HAS NOT BEEN PERSONALLY  
ACTIVE IN THE WORK, INCLUDING THAT IN LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE  
POOR, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN LEGAL EDUCATION FOR MINORITY GROUPS,  
OR THE OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS TO WHICH OUR ATTENTION HAS BEEN  
DEVOTED DURING THE LAST YEAR AND PRIOR THERETO.

WE HAVE A LOT GOING FOR US APART FROM MORE NUMERICAL

MUSCLE. THE INFUSION INTO THE ASSOCIATION OF THOUSANDS OF  
YOUNG LAWYERS, INCLUDING FOR THE FIRST TIME MORE REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE MINORITY GROUPS IN OUR SOCIETY, IS A TREMENDOUS ASSET  
WHICH CAN YIELD MANY DIVIDENDS. WE MUST OPEN OUR ARMS TO THEM,  
NOT ONLY AS MEMBERS BUT AS FULL PARTICIPANTS IN THE WORK AND  
AIMS OF OUR PROFESSION. WE MUST NOT ALLOW THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE  
TO GO UNUTILIZED.

MANY OF OUR EXISTING PROGRAMS AND OTHERS TO BE AUTHORIZED  
WILL FURNISH MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO USE THEIR YOUTHFUL IDEALISM,  
ENTHUSIASM AND ENERGY.

I SHALL CONCLUDE THESE REMARKS WITH A WORD OF DEEP THANKS  
FOR THE COOPERATION YOU HAVE GIVEN TO ME DURING MY PRESIDENCY,  
AND ON BEHALF OF GLADYS AND ME FOR THE HOSPITALITY SO MANY OF

YOU HAVE HELPED EXTEND TO US DURING OUR TRAVELS. FOR BOTH  
OF US THOSE COURTESIES WILL ALWAYS BE AN INDELIBLE MEMORY OF  
OUR ABA EXPERIENCE.

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