

PEOPLE

■ Laurence H. Silberman, a Wall Street lawyer and former Justice Department official, contends there are too many lawyers and they're a threat to the nation's political and economic systems. Writing in the American Enterprise Institute's *Journal on Government and Society*, Silberman says the growing number of lawyers has increased litigiousness — impeding business efficiency, clogging the courts, and circumventing the legislative process. He thinks the solution is tougher bar exams to trim the number of practitioners and tighter lawyer advertising rules.

■ A.B.A. President-elect S. Shepherd Tate says that "if lawyers cannot expect to be loved, we can hope to be respected." Tate told the Cincinnati Rotary Club that lawyers can earn public respect by following the Code of Professional Responsibility, supporting discipline, being decent to clients, and acting in the public interest.

■ Emphasizing he couldn't "encourage an act — the taking of human life — that I believe to be fundamentally wrong," New York Gov. Hugh Carey vetoed a death penalty bill. One election-year critic charged that Carey



Carey

"denied New Yorkers the means they have asked for to protect themselves against savagery and terror."

■ A.B.A. President Wm. B. Spann, Jr., told the West Virginia Bar Association in Wheeling the ban on cameras at the appellate court level

should be lifted but the prohibition against televised coverage of trial court proceedings should be retained until studies can be made of its effects.

■ The number of American Indian lawyers has increased greatly over the last decade, but it is still nowhere near the demands, says Sam DeLoria, director of the American Indian Law Center in Albuquerque. He told the national convention of the American Indian Law Students Association in Denver that there are now 400 Indian lawyers, compared with 20 in 1967. But he said that 2,000 are needed to handle the increasingly complex legal affairs of the country's one million Indians.

■ Pensacola, Florida, lawyer Lefferts L. Mabie won a \$35,000 award in a civil suit against a county sheriff and other defendants on grounds of police brutality against him, but he is donating the money to a police charity. Mabie, a former county judge, explains that the suit was not brought for money but to demonstrate "brutal and excessive use of force" and a "miserably shameful investigation" of his complaint.

■ Is the insurance industry's exemption from antitrust laws under the McCarran-Ferguson Act on the way out? Chairman Michael Pertschuk admits the Federal Trade Commission is looking for areas in which the exemptions "may not be justified." But, he told the National Association of Insurance Com-

missioners in Richmond, that, "unlike the Justice Department," the F.T.C. has not taken a position in favor of McCarran-Ferguson repeal.

■ A committee of 17 clergymen, many of them associates of Martin Luther King, Jr., want a new trial for James Earl Ray, the man convicted of killing King in Memphis ten years ago. Ray has recanted his confession, charging that he is the victim of a conspiracy. The clergymen



Ray

also want the release from a mental hospital of a woman witness to the assassination and a study of the relationship of Memphis police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the killing.

■ Law Professor Patrick Keenan of the University of Detroit says federal money is being used to maintain juvenile offenders in "hellholes" in which they are subjected to physical abuse, solitary confinement, and drugs. To end abuses, said Keenan at Washington, D.C., hearings organized by Children's Express, a publication put out mostly by children, reformers must trace the funding to its source and either control it or threaten to cut it off.

■ Should deaf persons be excused from jury duty? Theresa Eckstein, who is deaf, doesn't think so. The 29-year-old Little Rock woman has filed suit against the state and a circuit court judge, charging that her constitutional rights were violated by Judge William J. Kirby, who found she would need an interpreter in order to serve and therefore excused her.

■ Hell hath no fury like a client spurned. Philadelphia lawyer Gary Rose was held hostage by a man with a rifle for more than five hours before the gunman surrendered. According to police, suspect Leon Rodgers was upset because Rose's firm refused to handle his civil suit.

■ Attorney General Griffin B. Bell indicates he will resign before the 1980 presidential election year in order to quell charges that the Justice Department is being "politicized" to benefit his friend Jimmy Carter. "People might think that I was engaged in politics," says Bell in explaining that his relationship with Carter could reflect on the Justice Department.

■ 1978 is an important year for him as a baseball owner, Bill Veeck told the Legal Club of Chicago. His Chicago



Veeck

White Sox must vindicate the fan support they received in 1977, he explained. "I'd sink to any depths to win — even sportsmanship," he added. "You know, sportsmanship is a lot cheaper than good ballplayers."

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