

## Better Defense of Poor Called Bar's Top Goal

The outgoing president of the Montgomery County Bar Association has called revision of the system of providing defense for indigents the "primary task" of the bar in the coming year.

Robert C. Heeney, who relinquished the presidency to Robert S. Bourbon, said a plan worked out by the county bar earlier this year should be "fulfilled either legislatively or administratively."

"We tried very hard for a bill financing the defense of the indigent in a criminal case," Heeney said. "The plan we devised was a good one."

The delegation at Annapolis did not push the bill because Judge Thomas M. Anderson, senior judge of the Circuit Court, said the matter could be worked out with the bar, Heeney said. "That has not yet been done," he added.

The county bar's plan, disclosed in a January report, would establish a rotation system for defense of the penniless, with a formal system of administration that would cost an estimated \$70,000 a year.

The report was highly critical of the present defense given the poor, saying that inexperienced lawyers handled most of the cases and that the fees were too low.

Heeney also called for the replacement of the County's Justice of the Peace system by commissioners trained in the law, to form "a bastion be-

tween the police and the people."

Salaries of Circuit Court judges should be raised from the present \$23,500 to \$30,000, "so the Court will attract those at the bar who are competent and capable and who can maintain their status in life while administering the cause of justice."

He also urged the Circuit Court to establish a full-time master-of-chancery, a lawyer to hear complicated financial cases and make findings of fact, saving the judges time.

"It may be that with the two new judges we shall soon have, the Circuit Court will departmentalize itself for the orderly administration of justice," Heeney said. "But if it does not, the bar should strive to attain this end."

He also called for steps to insure that all decisions taken under advisement by the Court be made within 30 days.

The other new officers are William Dunphy, president-elect, James Wharton, treasurer, and Earl Hill, secretary.

### Texas Tractor to Peru

LIMA, June 19 (AP)—The Texas Partners organization gave Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry an \$8000 tractor last night. Ben Barnes, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, called it "a symbol of friendship between Texas and Peru."