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Montana Bar Association Activities

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MONTANA BAR ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES*

Pursuant to a resolution adopted at the last annual meeting of the Montana Bar Association held at Butte last summer, all of the lawyers of the state were canvassed to determine the attitude of the members of the bar in Montana with respect to the sponsoring or backing of: (1) The establishment of a Judicial Council for Montana; (2) The investiture of the Supreme Court of Montana, by appropriate legislation, if necessary, with authority to promulgate rules of civil procedure following the new federal rules as reasonably as the state governmental and judicial systems will permit; (3) completion of uniform rules of court for the several state judicial districts; (4) The study of the use of blank legal and court forms in Montana, under the name of "Montana Bar Association Forms," with the object of improving the form and contents of blank legal and court forms now in use.

Ballots were sent to all lawyers in Montana, but probably less than half of them returned the ballots to the Secretary by the dead-line for voting, March 1st. The results of the voting will be announced prior to or at the next annual meeting of the Association, which will be held late in the summer, and at that time further action on the proposals will be taken.

In cooperation with Walter Aitken, of Bozeman, and the American Judicature Society, a reprint from the Journal of that Society was sent to all lawyers in Montana, which reprint is a symposium consisting of the expressions of Supreme Court Justices of the States and Territories on Bar Integration. The members of the judiciary uniformly expressed a view favorable to the integrated bar, and these expressions were based on experience had within their own states.

President John E. Corette, of Butte, has appointed committees required to carry on the functions of the Montana Bar Association and to cooperate with the American Bar Association. Full cooperation is pledged to the Treasury Department in the Defense Savings Bond and Stamp Drive and in all activities for Defense and Victory. The Citizenship Program will be carried on, but in view of the fact that so many of the new citizens who became twenty-one years of age during the year may be in the armed forces, much use may be made of the radio in order that a greater number of persons may be reached with the message of responsibility of citizenship, a subject of particular importance at this critical time.

*This statement has been furnished by Wesley W. Wertz, Secretary of the State Bar Association.