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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, MARCH 20

MONTANA COMMISSION ON UNIFORM LAWS IS ACTIVATED

The Montana commission of lawyers appointed by Gov. J. Hugo Aronson to work with a national commission for uniform state laws has organized and begun work, Robert E. Sullivan, commission secretary, reported__________.

At an organizational meeting in Helena, Chief Justice James T. Harrison of the Montana Supreme Court was named chairman of the group and Dean Sullivan of the Montana State University Law School, Missoula, secretary. Alex Blewett of Great Falls is the third commissioner.

The Montana commission is working for more active participation by the state in the program of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The national conference, made up of the commissioners appointed by the states, meets annually for six days to consider acts drafted by committees of the organization. Acts are not approved until they have been considered in detail by at least two annual conferences.

The national conference, with the endorsement of the American Bar Assn., urges the enactment by state legislatures of acts it has approved. To date, the conference has approved more than 50 acts. At least one of these acts has been adopted in every legislative jurisdiction in the United States.

Sometimes the national conference judges that a uniform act on a particular subject is not necessary or desirable, and it drafts a model act instead. A model act serves as a guide to state legislatures, which can adapt it to suit local conditions. A uniform act, on the other hand, is the same in every state that adopts it.

The Montana commissioners will discuss uniform laws at the meeting of the State Bar Assn. in Butte in June. They will also attend a meeting of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, in Los Angeles in August.

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