

LAW AND SOCIETY ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AT THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION of the Harvard Law School on September 22 and 23, 1967, the Law and Society Association was celebrated also. Professor Lon L. Fuller of the Harvard faculty organized the theme of his remarks on Law and the Social Sciences, addressing himself to the challenge of "Some Unexplored Social Dimensions of the Law," around the fact and the name of the Law and Society Association. While he raised questions about a distinction between "law" and "society," he pointed up the importance of our movement and its ever-increasing inclusion in the minds of people who are thinking about formal social control. His concern in our mutual interest gives us a new enthusiasm.

I.

At the American Sociological Association meeting in August, Arnold Rose (at the time of his death, ASA's President-Elect, and an important LSA member) raised three questions: (1) What are the training needs in the Sociology of Law? (2) What are the research needs? (3) What is the future of LSA? In partial preface to answer of these penetrating questions, it is appropriate to reassert the aphorism "the present is the cause of the future." It is valuable to review some of the activities and interests of the Association, since the last report. They can be classified into categories of Association activities and law and society activities of related interest groups.

About the former, it is pleasant to report a successfully concluded Social Science Methods in Legal Education Institute (SSMILE) in Summer 1967. From sixty-two initial applications, twenty-three law professors were chosen for the five week institute. Under the guidance of Professors Allen Barton, Maurice Rosenberg and Jerome H. Skolnick, the lawmen learned social science methodology while critically evaluating proposals for research which each prepared.

With associated professional societies, the report is encouraging. Two sessions, co-sponsored by our Association, were presented at the American Political Science Association meeting in Chicago, September 5-9, 1967: "Law and Change" (Professors Jack Ladinsky, Lawrence M. Friedman and Gregory Massell) and "Free Speech and Privacy" (Professors Harry Kalven, Jr., Henry Abraham and Martin Shapiro). Similarly, two joint sessions were held in connection with the American Sociological Association San Francisco meeting, August 29 and 30, 1967, featuring, in one, a series of four research papers, and, in the other, an open business session of the Association. In connection with the meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, December 27 to 30, 1967, in Detroit, two Law and Society sessions were held: "Systems Approaches to Socio-Economic Problems: Contributions and Limitations" (Professors Carl F. Stover, Geoffrey C. Hazard, Jr., Donald N. Michael), and, the AALS Curriculum Committee Roundtable: "A Curricular Concern: Interdisciplinary Teaching—What Does It Mean?" (Professors Lawrence M. Friedman, Maurice Rosenberg, John J. Schanz, Jr., Ernest M. Jones, Frank I. Michelman).

About the latter, more than a little progress is obvious. An important event for law and sociologists was the Curriculum Committee meeting of the Association of American Law Schools made possible by a grant from the Danforth Foundation, held on September 30 and October 1, 1967 at the University of Denver College of Law. The focus of the meeting was on the role of the lawman of the future and its implications for liberalizing the legal curriculum toward proper training of this differently conceived person.

Wendell Bell, in an unpublished paper, muses that "The Future Is the Cause of the Present." True or not, some of the plans in prospect for the next year require attention. Association-planned activities include repeating the Social Science Methods in Legal Education in Summer 1968 at the University of Denver College of Law. The Russell Sage Foundation and the Walter E. Meyer Research Institute of Law again have provided the support for this program. Eighteen law professors are to attend this four week session, which will be led by Professors Harry Kalven, Jr., Allen Barton and Stanton Wheeler. Two other joint projects with the Association of American Law Schools were approved at the Fall LSA Trustees Meeting: Law in Social Science Education Institute (already nicknamed LISSE, the new institute will be aimed at a reverse of the SSMILE goals), to train social scientists in legal process and a project for Interdisciplinary Research on Legal Culture and Political,

Economic and Social Development. In conjunction with the 1968 Spring Meeting of the LSA Trustees, a meeting for the general membership of the Association will be held at the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, featuring two discussion sessions: on the evening of May 3rd, "Legal Problems of the Urban Poor," and on May 4th, "New Frontiers in Research on Criminal Justice." The 1968 Fall meeting of the Trustees will be held in New Orleans in December of 1968 (in conjunction with the Association of American Law Schools Meeting) and will include another general Association membership meeting focusing attention on a topic of interdisciplinary concern.

Groups closely related to the Association report exciting plans for the immediate future. The American Bar Association, with The American Assembly, will sponsor an unprecedented conference on "Law and The Social Order," March 14-17, 1968. It will bring together 100 invited participants—including leading authorities in law, sociology, business and government—to examine the role of law and lawyers in relation to the changes in American society. The University of Wisconsin is preparing a 1968 summer institute in Behavioral Science and Law. Disciplinary associations continue to plan joint Law and Society sessions at annual meetings.

II.

Your Board of Trustees met in Evanston, November 11 and 12. Along with other business otherwise herein reported, the Trustees reluctantly accepted the resignations of Paul Meehl (Psychology, University of Minnesota) and Walter Murphy (Politics, Princeton University), both of whom had personal demands pre-empting continued trusteeship. Elected to fill one of the positions was Victor Rosenblum (Political Science and Law, Northwestern University). In addition, Gerald Caplin, M.D. (Psychiatry, Harvard University) was also elected a Trustee.

—ROBERT B. YEGGE