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CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, *Editor*

Annual Conference of N.P.P.A.—The forty-sixth annual conference of N.P.P.A. was held at the Hotel Statler, Cleveland, Ohio, May 28 to June 4, inclusive, in cooperation with the Ohio Probation and Parole Association.

Among the participants in the program were:

Judge George W. Smith, President of N.P.P.A.

Richard McManus, President of the Ohio Probation and Parole Association.

Sanford Bates, Commissioner, State Department of Institutions and Agencies, New Jersey discussed the Meaning of Prison Riots. The Supervision of Field Personnel was discussed by Frank Flynn, Associate Professor, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago, Elton R. Smith, Assistant Superintendent, Parole Supervision, Pennsylvania Board of Parole, and Phyllis Rochelle, Counsellor, Girls Probation Department, Juvenile Court, Toledo, Ohio.

Harry L. Eastman, Judge of the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court in Cleveland and Judge George Edwards of the Juvenile Division of the Wayne County Probate Court, Detroit spoke on the Challenge of the Juvenile Code.

There was a round table discussion on the Organization of Probation Services, on Detention Homes, and other problems, including a critical review of Probation and Parole work was given by Edmond Fitzgerald, Chief Probation Officer of Kings County, New York and Kenyon J. Scudder, Supt., California Institution for men, Chino, California.

Dr. Dale B. Harris, of the Institute of Child Welfare in the University of Minn. spoke on Adolescents and Responsibility at a luncheon which is sponsored jointly by the National Child Labor Committee and the N.P.P.A. A New Pattern for Mental Health Services in Children's Courts was discussed on June 4 in a general session sponsored by the N.P.P.A. and the Family Service Association of America. The participants were Will C. Turnblach of the N.P.P.A., Clark W. Blackburn, General Director of the Family Service Association of America, Dr. Harris B. Peck, Director of Psychiatric Services in the Domestic Relations Court of New York City, and Dr. Molly Harrower, Research Director, Intake Project, Domestic Relations Court of the City of New York.—From Sol Rubin, Legal Consultant, N.P.P.A.

Arson Investigators' Seminar—The ninth annual seminar and training course in the detection and investigation of arson was conducted April 27—May 1, at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. Since 1945, when the first training course for persons interested in the detection and investigation of arson was held, the Purdue seminar has achieved international recognition as the center for this type of specialized training. Over 2,000 investigators and others interested in the control and prevention of arson have attended the annual courses. Arson detection and investigation is recognized today as a highly specialized field requiring first-hand knowledge of modern techniques. Present trends indicate an increase in the number of fires set by pyromaniacs and juveniles and the use of even more ingenious methods by the arsonist to escape detection. These factors place a greater responsibility for effective action on all of the agencies dealing with the problem of suspicious fires. The Purdue seminar is designed to deal with these problems and to present methods for their solutions. Outstanding specialists from the United States and other countries serve as lecturers and discussion leaders for the course. Practical

demonstrations, case histories, and visual aids are utilized freely during the program. Further information concerning this and future seminars may be obtained from the Public Safety Institute, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.—THE POLICE CHIEF, February 1953.

UN Recommends Revision of India's Jail Administration and Penal Code—India's jail administration and penal code will be drastically revised if the Government adopts the recommendations of a United Nations Technical Assistance expert in criminology. The expert, Dr. Walter C. Reckless, a criminologist at Ohio State University on loan to UNTA, has completed a survey of the entire jail administration and penal code and has proposed a draft of new bills which could be proposed to the Indian legislature. Such innovations as getting the juvenile delinquent out of adult jails, getting women prisoners out of men's jails and adopting a probation system with adequate after-care service are among the suggested reforms. The expert's report suggests that child offenders be tried in separate courts or, lacking this facility, that regular courts be cleared of adult prisoners while juveniles are tried. It also recommends, as a substitute for jails in the case of the juvenile offender, a remand home or certified (reform) school, the maintenance of which would be at no greater cost to the state than are the present jails. A Juvenile Aid Bureau, within the Police Department, should be established and among its functions ought to be the checking on conditions which are demoralizing to children. In general, the report finds that India "should by all means do better by its women offenders."

Dr. Reckless strongly recommends the introduction and application of the probation system into India. He regards it as more constructive and no more costly to the state than long imprisonment. In order to have the probation idea operate in India, jail administrators will have to change their concept of the purpose of incarceration. They must regard confinement as a period for social rehabilitation and training for good citizenship and not as a custodial, punitive experience, the criminologist states. In order to accomplish this it must be assumed that a majority of prisoners are improvable and it is only a minority which is incorrigible, dangerous and difficult, and for the latter group commitment is only punitive. The expert states that a prisoner should be released when he is ready for it, i.e., when he has absorbed the maximum correctional therapy and is ready to assume his responsibilities in the outside world. However, neither a too long nor too short sentence will prove this opportunity. Incarceration for over three years or under six months is not an effective device for social defense.

The first step to be taken to achieve these reforms, Dr. Reckless states, is revision of the jail manual and penal code. The manual in current use has the custodial concept of long, punitive sentence and rigorous commitment. A government commission will be appointed, according to the recommendations in the report to draft revisions. The same commission should change the terms of reference of jail personnel who at present train only to prevent escape. The department should be expanded to include new categories of personnel, says the report. The report suggests that all recommendations be tried out in one prison as a pilot project. Jail administrators from other sections could observe and carry back to their own prisons any proven reforms and the adaptation could be gradual. The expert, who conducted a seminar for Indian jail administrators during his stay in that country, finally recommends that UN grant fellowships in the correctional field.—From a current United Nations press release.

Annual Criminology Conference—The annual conference of the Society for the Advancement of Criminology was held April 4 at the University of California, Berkeley, California. A general business meeting was followed by a panel discussion led by Dr. James Enochs, specialist in state college curricula, State Department of Education. Topics included in the discussion were: *Standardization of Criminology Curricula, Transference of Students, Course Content, Programs, Admission of Students* and closely related factors. Mr. Walter Dunbar, Associate Warden of San Quentin Prison, addressed the evening session, selecting for his subject, *University and College Curricula for Correctional Service Education*.—The Editor.

Economics of Parole—The following list, states Wayne K. Patterson in a paper delivered at the annual conference of the Western Probation Association in Denver, September 1952, is merely suggestive of the values of a good parole system to the economy. The figures are drawn from the situation in one state; the principles they illustrate are applicable to other states, said Mr. Patterson. 1) In Colorado its costs almost \$1200 a year to keep an inmate in the penitentiary or the reformatory; in contrast, it costs less than \$100 a year to supervise a parolee. It is admitted, however, that improved standards of parole supervision will require some increase in this cost figure. 2) Fifty percent of Colorado's prison and reformatory inmates have families receiving public welfare assistance up to \$200 a month; it is estimated that parolees will earn and pay taxes on over \$4,000,000 this year. Maintaining these persons in a penal institution would have cost the taxpayers about \$1,800,000. 3) Released inmates represent many types of skills and trades and constitute a large pool of manpower for business, industry and agriculture. 4) The interstate compact provides for the orderly and economical transfer of parolees from one state to another. 5) Overcrowding in penal institutions can be appreciably reduced by proper release and supervision procedures. 6) All parole systems return parole violators to the institution by executive decree, a far less expensive procedure than the judicial process would be.—Focus, March 1953.

Science and the Law—The Law-Science Institute sponsored by the Schools of Law and Medicine at the University of Texas, was held in Austin, Texas, April 13 through April 18, with the conference theme centered on *Problems of Proof and Criminal Behavior*. Under this general heading the presentation of papers included *The Experimental Psychologist Takes a Look at the Trial Process, Some Scientific and Legal Aspects of Proof in Criminal and Civil Litigation, Scientific Foundations of Criminal Psychology, Rehabilitation of Criminal Offenders and Criminal Responsibility—Legal and Scientific*. Dr. Hubert Winston Smith, Dr. Marcel Frym, Mr. Jerry Giesler, Mr. George Stumberg, Dr. Chauncey Leake, Mr. Dan Moody, Dr. H. P. Weld, and other outstanding authorities participated in the program. Peace officers, prosecuting attorneys and others interested in the problem of proof attended the conference.—Texas Department of Public Safety, *Law Enforcement Bulletin*, April 2, 1953.

International Criminal Police Review—Noteworthy among the leading journals of the field is the *International Criminal Police Review*, published by the International Criminal Police Commission as a means of drawing international professional relations into closer focus. The annual subscription is 25 Swiss Francs (Credit Lyonnais, Geneva, account No. 31.899) or 2050 French

Francis (Bank account of the International Criminal Police Commission at the Credit Lyonnais, Bd des Italiens, 19, Paris. The *Review* is published each year in ten numbers, English edition or French edition as preferred, and includes a periodical list of articles selected from the criminalistic publications of all countries. Further information concerning this journal may be obtained by addressing the General Secretariat of the International Criminal Police Commission, Bd. Gouvion St. Cyr, 60, Paris.—PENNSYLVANIA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION BULLETIN, winter edition, 1953.

Executions Continue Decline—Eighty-three executions were carried out in the United States under civil authority in 1952. Except for 1950, when there were only 82, fewer executions were recorded in 1952 than in any of the years beginning with 1930 for which national data on executions have been collected. The 83 executions in 1952 may be compared with an average of 143 per year for the years 1930 to 1951. Of the 83 executions in 1952, 71 were for murder and 12 were for rape. For murder, 35 white persons and 36 Negroes were executed; for rape, one white person, and 11 Negroes. There were no females among those executed. The ages of those who paid the supreme penalty in 1952 ranged from 19 to 70, with the greatest concentration in the age group 25 to 29. More than four-fifths of the Negroes, but less than half the whites, were aged under 35.

In 1952, executions occurred in 24 of the 44 jurisdictions (42 states, D. C., and the Federal) in which capital punishment may be imposed under ordinary circumstances. Four of the 24 jurisdictions in which executions occurred accounted for 37 of the 83 executions. These were Georgia with 11, Texas with 10, California with nine, and South Carolina with seven. Capital punishment is illegal in six states Maine, Rhode Island, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota. However, three of these make certain exceptions: Michigan and North Dakota provide the death penalty for treason, and North Dakota also permits the death penalty for first-degree murder committed by a prisoner serving a life sentence for first-degree murder; and Rhode Island makes the death penalty mandatory for murder committed by a prisoner serving a life sentence. Only two of the 83 executions in 1952 were carried out by hanging—one in Iowa and one in Kansas. Thirteen of the executions were by lethal gas, and 68 by electrocution. Of the jurisdictions which authorize the death penalty, 25 prescribe electrocution, nine lethal gas, eight hanging; one shooting or hanging. Executions ordered by the Federal courts are carried out in accordance with the method used by the State in which the sentence is imposed. Oklahoma changed its method of execution from electrocution to lethal gas in 1952.—Federal Bureau of Prisons, *National Prisoner Statistics*, No. 8, April 1953.

National Jail Association Schedules Two Forums—The first Mid-West Regional Forum on Jail Problems met at the Hotel Schroeder, Milwaukee, Thursday and Friday, March 19 and 20, under the general chairmanship of M. A. Skaff, detention investigator of the Wisconsin Division of Corrections and Lt. Frank Callan of the Milwaukee County Sheriffs Department. A full discussion program had been arranged and the conference was attended by jail officials and others interested in improved jail administration. The seventh Eastern Regional Forum on Jail Problems will meet at the Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, Va., Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6. Program details are now in process of completion and a record attendance is expected. Further information may be obtained from Robert J. Wright, Executive Secretary,

the National Jail Association, 135 East 15th St., New York 3, N. Y.—*THE PRISON WORLD*, January-February, 1953.

Brig. Gen. W. H. Maglin Becomes Provost Marshal General—Brigadier General William H. Maglin, first member of the Military Police Corps to be promoted to general officer rank, was recently appointed The Provost Marshal General. For the past three years he has been serving as Provost Marshal General of the U. S. Army in Europe. General Maglin, who is widely known among law enforcement officials of this country and who has addressed many conferences of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, brings to his new post a wealth of experience in Military Police and Provost Marshal activities. As Commandant of The Provost Marshal General's School in 1943-45 and 1947-50, General Maglin played an important role in the development of the MPC and its officers. His service record dates back to 1917 when he served with the MP detachments at El Paso, Texas. He graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1924. Late in 1945 he organized the Korean National Police. General Maglin succeeds Major General Edwin P. Parker, who retired from active service recently. Members of the Military Police Corps throughout the world and civilians in many walks of life joined in paying tribute to him for his more than 40 years of distinguished service to the Army and his tireless efforts to improve the Corps.—*THE POLICE CHIEF*, February, 1953.

Delinquency Prediction—The validity of the delinquency prediction scales developed by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck and described in their recent book *Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency*, is being tested by the research department of the New York City Youth Board. The research unit began last September to apply the scales, which aim to predict the likelihood of future delinquency, to all boys entering the first grade of two New York City elementary schools matched as to general characteristics of population, neighborhood, and incidence of delinquency. When the information about the boys in both schools has been collected and each child is rated as to his delinquency potential, those who have a high potential for delinquency according to the scales will be treated under the direction of trained psychiatrists and psychiatric social workers. Follow-up studies will be made to test the validity of the scales and "to determine, by comparing changes in behavior between treated and untreated boys and their families, whether the treatment supplied to them had any effect on preventing the development of the problems as originally revealed by the prediction scales."—*FOCUS*, March, 1953.

Summer Law Enforcement Institute—The Graduate School of Public Administration and Social Service of New York University announces a Summer Institute on Modern Methods in Law Enforcement for August 3-7, with scheduled instruction in the detection and investigation of arson, homicide, accidents, burglary, frauds, larceny, security, and sex crimes. The program will include workshops, field visits, and demonstrations in the police laboratory, lie detector apparatus, and case materials. It is anticipated that the course will prove of interest to lawyers, fireman, police, public officials, insurance adjusters, sociologists, psychologists, fire investigation officers, and private investigators. The course fee is \$60.00 (proportionate for daily or part-time attendance) plus \$3.00 University fee. The work may be taken as three credits by properly qualified matriculants toward degrees of Master of Public Administration or Doctor of Philosophy. A certificate of attendance will be

awarded to non-degree participants on satisfactory completion. Arrangements for registration may be made by addressing the Graduate School of Public Administration and Social Service, New York University, Washington Square, New York 3, N. Y.—*From* an announcement to the Editor.

Federal Jail Inspection—Two objectives are served by the inspection of local jail facilities by inspectors of the Federal Bureau of Prisons—first, to select the best available jails for boarding held-for-trial and short-sentence Federal prisoners; second, to promote and encourage programs of jail improvement to the end that better local detention facilities will be available for the future. The 751 local jails authorized for Federal use are, generally speaking, the best in the country. Yet of 398 jails visited by Federal inspectors during 1952, drawn with few exceptions from this “preferred list,” it was found that 167 or 42.0 percent rated below 60 percent on a scale which would rate a fully acceptable jail at 100 percent. An analysis of ratings for the several factors considered by the inspectors shows that the areas of inmate employment, inmate activities, and medical and health services received the lowest ratings. But ratings for other factors were in many instances only slightly higher, and the all-important factor of secure custody was rated below 60 percent in 84 jails. Among hopeful developments is the growing interest in the work farm as a substitute for the traditional jail, traditionally blighted by inmate idleness. A number of communities where outmoded jails are due for replacement are thinking in terms of suburban institutions where prisoners can be given full-time productive employment at farm work or on simple industrial operations. Already in several communities a work farm, used mainly for sentenced prisoners, serves as an annex to the downtown jail. An outstanding example is the Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center, Alameda County, California.—Federal Bureau of Prisons, *Federal Prisons*, 1952.

Temporary Detention—Nowhere is society’s obligation so clear or the action it takes so important as when legitimate complaints first come to the attention of courts and law enforcement agencies concerning the delinquent child. Future delinquent or criminal behavior may well be determined by what happens to children when they are first picked up and placed in shelter or detention facilities, by the type of care they receive, and by the help given to their parents to prevent the situation from becoming more serious. Realizing this, the Governor’s Advisory Committee on Children and Youth in California appointed a subcommittee last summer to make a statewide study of temporary child care. The Rosenberg Foundation granted funds for the study, which is being conducted under the direction of Sherwood Norman, specialist in detention and shelter care for the National Probation and Parole Association. Mr. Norman, who has already made two extended visits to California, expects to complete the fieldwork phase of the study by April of this year, clearing the way for compilation and analysis of the mass of material that has been gathered. He is being assisted in the field work by Mrs. Dorothy F. Allen.—Focus, March 1953.

College Level Training for the Correctional Field—A document of more than ordinary significance is the report of the Committee on Personnel Standards and Training of the American Prison Association, *Suggested College Curricula for Correctional Service Education*, prepared under the Chairmanship of Richard A. McGee, Director, California Department of Corrections Sacramento, California. Copies of this 33 page report, virtually a petition to

American universities and colleges to bring their training resources into contact with the personnel needs of the correctional field, may be obtained by addressing Mr. McGee or the American Prison Association, 135 East Fifteenth Street, New York 3, N. Y.—The Editor.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Illinois Academy of Criminology

The third meeting of the Illinois Academy of Criminology for the year 1952-53 was held on Monday, February 23rd, in the State of Illinois Building in Chicago. The program dealt with several current legislative needs in criminal justice in Illinois. The program was moderated by Mr. Francis A. Allen, Professor of Law at Northwestern University. Each of the three speakers were provided an opportunity to present a brief statement of the nature and objectives of the legislative programs with which they were associated.

The first speaker, Mr. Wayland Cedarquist, Chicago attorney, discussed the judicial article which has been proposed by the Illinois and Chicago Bar Associations to modernize the Illinois court system. Mr. Cedarquist pointed out that the proposed judicial article represented an amendment to the State Constitution, which has remained unrevised since 1870. The proposed amendment provides a new system for the nomination, appointment, and election of the judges. The system calls for nomination of candidates by non-partisan commissions, selection and appointment by the Governor from an approved list for a short term, followed by a vote by the people at a general election to determine whether or not the appointed judge should be retained. It also provides for a reorganization and simplification of the Illinois trial court structure. The proposed article provides for a single trial court in each circuit. The many separate courts which currently exist would be organized as divisions of this central circuit court. Cases would then be assigned to the divisions of the circuit court. The judicial amendment also re-defines the relationships of the Supreme and Appellate Courts, and specifically defines the lines of rule-making and administrative authority in the court system.

Mr. Cedarquist stated that the article was proposed as a remedy for the loss of public confidence in Illinois courts. Under the present system, due to the lack of personal knowledge of the judges on the part of the electorate, and the frequent use of coalition tickets, the political parties in effect select the judges to serve in the court system. This necessarily brings about a degree of political involvement which has generally been deplored. Missouri and California have already set into operation a system of judicial appointment similar to the one proposed by the Bar Associations in Illinois. This system has been found to work quite satisfactorily in these states.

Mr. Cedarquist indicated that this new judicial article would be submitted to the legislature within the next thirty days, and indicated further that an explanatory statement, as well as the text of the proposed article, could be secured from the office of the Chicago Bar Association or Illinois State Bar Association.

The second speaker on the program, Dr. Edward J. Kelleher, Director of the Psychiatric Institute of the Municipal Court of Chicago, presented a brief discussion of several recommendations pertaining to sex offender legislation. He noted that during a two year period in the Psychiatric Institute,

1,328 sex offender cases were examined. Of these cases, 13 percent were found to be psychotic, and were committed to the psychopathic hospital. Approximately three percent were found to be mentally retarded, requiring institutional commitment, and 34 percent were found to be neurotic, and were recommended for out-patient clinical care and treatment. In many cases, offenders charged with non-sexual crimes were found to have an underlying sexual disturbance. Thus, the actual offense had the effect of covering up the underlying sex problem, which would have escaped attention without psychiatric examination. The reverse was also true where, on examination, it was occasionally found that a person charged with exhibitionism had simply been drunk, or persons arrested as "peeping toms," were actually intent on burglary. In certain cases of statutory rape, the offender frequently appeared as a victim of seduction.

Dr. Kelleher used these illustrations for the purpose of pointing up the need for thorough socio-psychiatric examinations of criminal offenders, and the necessity for recognizing that sex offenders constituted a very heterogeneous group of people. The variability of sex offenders, as a group, could only be met by an equal degree of variability and flexibility in the disposition and treatment of these cases.

Dr. Kelleher attacked certain myths in regard to the sex offender by pointing out that only a small proportion of these cases were really dangerous. Kinsey estimated that only five percent of these cases were serious dangers to the community. Furthermore, sex offenders rarely progress from mild to very serious offenses. Dr. Kelleher went on to present several recommendations which he felt should be taken into account in re-writing sex offender legislation.

He proposed 1) mandatory socio-psychiatric examinations for all sex offenders; 2) that clear distinctions be drawn between minor and major sex offenders with respect to disposition and treatment; 3) that the charge of statutory rape be stricken in favor of charges more appropriate to the realities of this offense; 4) that the charge of arson be scrutinized closely as a frequent form of expression of underlying sexual disturbance; 5) that legislation provide adequate facilities, both institutional and extra-mural, for the care and treatment of sex offenders; 6) that the Sex Offenders Commission of the Illinois Legislature be continued for the next four years for further study of this problem; and 7) that the Commission work closely with a central center for sex offenders where research, treatment and study of the problem could be carried out.

Dr. Kelleher indicated that the forthcoming report of the Sex Offenders Commission would deal with several of the recommendations indicated above. He then went on to discuss the problem of sex psychopaths. He pointed out that percentage-wise this group represented a very small proportion of sex offenders. He also pointed out that frequently persons examined by psychiatrists are found to be sex psychopaths, though no formal criminal charges of a sex offense are outstanding. He felt that there should be a wider use of civil procedures for the commitment of such cases. He indicated that wider use could be made of the existing Mental Health Act to provide care and treatment for the sex psychopath. Opposition to such use of this law is based on the judgment that the Department of Public Welfare does not have adequate facilities nor sufficient security to care for these offenders. Dr. Kelleher believed that much more serious offenders from a security standpoint are actually now being committed under the Mental

Health Act, and that adequate facilities should be provided for the sex offender group as well.

Opposition to the use of the Act also reflects a fear that many homosexuals would be improperly committed. Dr. Kelleher felt that such a fear was groundless, since very few homosexuals constitute a serious danger to the community, and in any case, the Department of Public Welfare could discharge such offenders whenever it seemed desirable. Then Dr. Kelleher went on to recommend the routine examination of sex offenders for psychopathy, and the postponement of criminal charge and sentence until such examination had been effected. He indicated that the proper use of the Mental Health Act and existing criminal legislation would eventually permit the repeal of special legislation for sex psychopaths.

The third speaker on the program, Mr. John Paul Stevens, a Chicago attorney, discussed the post-conviction law. He pointed out that the post-conviction law in Illinois was set up for the purpose of providing easy access to the courts for those prisoners who felt the need for a review of the trial proceedings on the question of fairness. He stated that several criticisms have been advanced in regard to this law. It is argued, 1) that the operation of the law places an undue burden on the state's attorney's office, and the courts; 2) that it results in the release of hardened offenders to the free community; and 3) it inverts a long-standing tradition in the judicial system by permitting one trial court to review the work of another trial court. In describing the operation of the law, Mr. Stevens pointed out that in practice it represents a chance to challenge trial proceedings on the grounds of forced or contrived testimony, etc.

The law was created in response to a finding of the U. S. Supreme Court that the Illinois judicial system provided inadequate review in the cases of indigent prisoners. The argument that the state courts are unnecessarily burdened with petitions arising from this law is not borne out by statistical evidence. The law now permits the prisoner to obtain through state procedures a review most frequently handled previously under Federal habeas corpus. Since the law has gone into effect approximately the same number of cases have been handled by the state courts as were previously dealt with in Federal courts. If the trial is resolved in favor of the prisoner, the practice has been to release the prisoner and order a retrial on the original offense.

The current post-conviction law imposes a time limit during which review must be requested. Under the previous Federal procedure, no such time limit existed. The new Act provided that any one currently incarcerated had a period of three years in which to file a petition under the post-conviction law. That three year period has now expired. The law further provides that any one committed to the penitentiary since the enactment of the law must appeal within a five year period after his incarceration. Thus, from now on the volume of cases appealing under the post-conviction law should be sharply reduced.

Under this law the burden is placed on the prisoner to prove his claim of a violation of the guarantee of a fair trial. Once a case has been reviewed it can not be reviewed again on this question. Since the law has gone into effect, a total of twenty retrials on the original offenses have been granted. In a number of cases it appears that the judges have actually used the law for the purpose of granting relief in hardship cases. This, of course, is a misuse of the law, but the likelihood of this kind of action can be expected to decrease sharply since only recently convicted cases can now be appealed.

Mr. Stevens argued that repealing the Act would set the whole problem

back in the Federal courts, and would fail to provide the clear-cut procedure for which the law was created. In addition to supporting the post-conviction law, Mr. Stevens made two recommendations: 1) that a full transcript of each trial should be made a matter of record which would be readily accessible to indigent prisoners, and 2) that stricter standards for police interrogation should be developed and followed. Such action would have the effect of removing the major ground for appeal under the post-conviction law.

The meeting was then adjourned following a period of discussion and debate concerning the relative merits of the proposed legislation.—From Lloyd E. Ohlin, Sec.

AN EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE ON THE FEDERAL BENCH

On May 14th, our esteemed Associate Editor, Judge Julius J. Hoffman, of the Superior Court of Cook County, was appointed to the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Judge Hoffman will continue to serve as one of our Associate Editors, in which capacity his wise counsel and genial fellowship have been highly valued by all of us.

THE EDITORS