Report of the Joint Committee of Judges and Lawyers

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REPORT OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS

To the Minnesota State Bar Association:

Your Committee reports as follows:

Report

Pursuant to resolution adopted by the District Judges' Association at their 1946 annual meeting, the President of said Association appointed the following judges: Joseph J. Moriarty, Albin S. Pearson, F. B. Wright, Byron R. Wilson, and Mark Nolan, to constitute a committee of the judges to work in cooperation with the committee appointed by the State Bar Association in furtherance of the administration of justice, the perpetuation of the lofty ideals of the legal profession and the constitutional independence of the judiciary, and finally for the mutual well-being of the judges and lawyers of the State.

Death claimed the Honorable F. B. Wright, whose noble character and devotion to the cause of right will long be remembered in this State, and in his place the President of the Association appointed the Honorable John Weeks.

The President of the State Bar Association, cooperating with the Judges' Association, and pursuant to action of said Bar Association, appointed a like committee for a like purpose, the members of said committee being Honorable John F. D. Meighen, Albert Lea; Beldin H. Loftsgaarden, St. Paul; Donald O. Wright, Minneapolis; James T. Spillane, Rochester; Clarence R. Smith, Bemidji, and together and working as a unit these two groups are known as the Liaison Committee of the Bench and Bar.

This committee, in some mysterious way, met and appointed Judge Joseph J. Moriarty of Shakopee, Minnesota, as Chairman of the joint groups and in furtherance of their calling the committee made certain definite recommendations to the legislature and otherwise which were published in the March, 1947 issue of the "Bench and Bar," to which we respectfully call your attention.

The committee at its meeting and after its meeting explored the proper field of action for its functions and discovered that its continuation and diligent activity would be of great value to both Bench and Bar in the future and recommends its continuation.

It is needless to say that the lawyers are the officers of the court and that the problems involved in the administration of justice demand the utmost good faith and closest cooperation between the Bench and Bar. This calls for strong, learned, independent judges, properly compensated, keen and alert to the doings of the time, men through whose veins flows rich American blood, in no way stagnant with the virus of tyranny or overbearing attitudes, whose minds are responsive to the spirit of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution and the basic thinking of the American Patriot, men who can laugh and should laugh when there is cause for laughter, men who understand the problems of the lawyer as well as the problems of the people and who have the courage to solve these problems in the face of all odds, and it is needless to say that this kind of a judiciary should be backed up by strong lawyers, men of reason, judgment, discretion, defenders of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, not selling the Court short on the law or the facts, not playing wildcat when a decision is adverse to their contentions, but seeking out through the remedy of review in the proper superior tribunals the right of their cause, if their cause has right, and at all times adequately and properly compensated for their zeal, study, labor and expenditures.

As Chairman of the Committee, I am sorry to say that time does not permit me to submit this report to all the members thereof but I am sending