

1949

# Report of Committee on American Citizenship and Bill of Rights

Minn. L. Rev. Editorial Board

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Your Committee deferred the further study of administrative declaratory rulings and judicial review pending the outcome of the aforementioned proposed bill in the 1947 session of the legislature. It is now felt that whether or not the proposed bill is passed at the 1949 session, the Committee should proceed to further investigate matters relating to declaratory rulings and judicial review and report further upon their deliberations at a later meeting of this Association.

Dated April 11, 1949

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN STEVENS, Chairman	J. F. D. MEIGHEN
LAWRENCE L. LENERTZ	G. B. SJOSELIUS
ROBERT F. LEACH, Secretary	S. B. OYEN
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AUSTIN GRIMES	E. J. MESSNER
JOHN STURNER	TED CHRISTENSON
ED NIERENGARTEN	WRIGHT BROOKS
STEFAN A. RIESENFELD	HAROLD FLYNN

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AERONAUTICAL LAW

No written report was filed by this committee.

A. R. JOHANSON, Chairman

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP AND BILL OF RIGHTS .

To THE MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION :

Your Committee reports as follows:

### Report

Among the important activities of our State Bar Association in 1948 was its enthusiastic and constructive participation in the programs held in connection with the Freedom Train. The work of the Minnesota Bar during Rededication Week and in connection with other programs initiated by our bar was outstanding among the states. The Minnesota lawyers were complimented in a recent communication from the Chairman of the American Citizenship Committee of the American Bar Association for their activities in Americanism. This successful effort last year was made possible only through the wholehearted cooperation our committee received from the District Bar Associations and all affiliates.

In our 1948 report we recommended: "That each affiliated bar association appoint a committee to be known as 'American Citizenship and Bill of Rights Committee' and place the duty on such committees to:

- A. Inspire and foster good citizenship;
- B. Cooperate with the Courts in ceremonies attendant on the naturalization of citizens."

As a part of the Freedom Train project we stressed the desirability of appointing standing committees in order to carry out this important field of activity on a permanent basis. A few such committees have been appointed, but perhaps because this is a relatively new field of specialized endeavor in our bar association, enthusiasm has not developed as rapidly as is desirable, nor proportionately to what seems to be the need of our times.

We must recognize that the effectiveness of our program will depend in a large measure on its continuous, year-round character, and must be geared to a recognition that the problem of creating good citizenship is, like other social problems, a perennial one, requiring constant attention and re-education.

The lawyers are better equipped for this type of civic work than are most others in their communities. It involves sacrifice of time and effort for which there is no compensation in a strict material sense, but there is that greater compensation which flows from the knowledge that we as lawyers are doing our share in strengthening the structure of our democratic institutions. The months and years immediately ahead of us will put our American way of life to a critical test. To meet it the American people must know, understand, and appreciate the system of government which has bestowed its blessings upon them. We are living in a world of competing ideologies. We are challenged by a philosophy inimical to our way of life. Our citizens must be consciously aware of the meaning of our American tradition of civil and political liberties, and the need for strengthening our democracy. As we stated in the 1948 report, "There is now the opportunity for cooperation and leadership in every community and area of life that we as lawyers cannot neglect if we are to merit the continuing confidence of our neighbors as leaders of community thought and enterprise."

Your committee is affiliated with the Minneapolis Council of Americanization and is represented on its board of directors by your chairman, who is its program chairman. This organization deals primarily with those persons who have recently become, or are about to become, citizens, and cooperates with Courts in ceremonies attendant on the naturalization of citizens. It encourages the foreign-born to become citizens, helps with the paper work, fosters pride in their citizenship, encourages them to preserve the best of their culture and to fit it into our society, and in various ways tries to demonstrate the meaning of democracy and its benefits. Efforts are being made to work out similar programs throughout the state, and to have representation by the bar in the ceremonies of the various Courts upon the induction of new citizens. This can best be carried out through the local bar associations. The judges regard the work of the Minneapolis Council of Americanization as highly important and have encouraged the enlargement of this type of activity so as to encompass the entire state.

The by-laws of the State Bar Association require that cases brought to the attention of the committee involving threats to civil liberties guaranteed by the Federal and State Constitution shall be reported to the Executive committee for such action as it may direct. No cases have been reported.

Plans for participation in "I Am An American Day" programs throughout the state are being made by your committee. These programs will be sponsored for Minneapolis by an over-all committee recently organized in Minneapolis, of which your chairman is a member. Mr. Holtze, a member of your committee, appeared before this over-all committee on March 30th, outlining the work of our State Bar Association, and offered our services.

Radio time has been made available to the State Bar Association through your committee for programs on "I Am An American Day," May 15th, and Memorial Day, May 30th. These programs will consist of music, speeches and panel discussions. Other programs will be made available at appropriate times. Your committee is deeply appreciative of the splendid cooperation we have received from radio stations in helping us to participate in the promotion of true Americanism.

It has come to our attention that some of the judges throughout the state are taking the opportunity of indoctrinating our citizens who are