Conference on Divorce

The second all-day conference sponsored by The Law School during the past academic year was on the subject of "Divorce" and was held on February 29, 1952. This largest conference which The Law School has sponsored attracted almost five hundred lawyers, social workers, psychiatrists, and students to its all-day sessions. Max Rheinstein, Max Pam Professor of Comparative Law, was chairman of the conference committee, which was composed of Professors Allison Dunham, William R. Ming, Jr., and Sheldon Tefft. Joining with The Law School faculty on the conference committee were Ernest W. Burgess, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, and Helen R. Wright, Samuel Deutsch Professor and Dean of the School of Social Service Administration. Karl N. Llewellyn presided at the morning session, devoted to aspects of divorce law and practice today. The opening speaker was Justice Edwin A. Robson of the Appellate Court of Illinois, First District, who pronounced today's divorce act, drafted in 1874, as "patched, depreciated, and outmoded by the years . . . inadequate to cope with the impact of problems in modern society." Justice Robson pointed to divorce practice as one of today's greatest social problems and cited the tremendous cost, on the one hand, of resultant juvenile delinquency and, on the other, of the direct financial costs of state and county aid to dependent children. Justice Robson made a plea for a complete review of the judicial system as the first step toward clearing the accumulated abuses in divorce procedure.

The two other speakers of the morning session discussed the financial side of divorce. Mr. William C. Boyden, member of the Illinois Bar, spoke on the property aspect of divorce. Mr. Robert W. Wales, member of the Illinois Bar, read a paper on "The Tax Aspects of Divorce" by Mr. Harry J. Rudick, of New York, who was prevented by illness from attending the conference.

Professor Max Rheinstein spoke at the luncheon session on "Our Dual Law of Divorce: The Law in Action versus the Law of the Books." Professor William R. Ming, Jr., presided.

The Honorable Paul W. Alexander, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Lucas County, Ohio, and chairman of the Interprofessional Commission on Marriage and Divorce Laws, was the principal speaker at the afternoon session. Judge Alexander, in speaking on "A Therapeutic Approach," charged that the law, "instead of doing all in its power to facilitate reconciliation, so that there will not have to be a divorce ... forces the litigants into a position of hostility, so that divorce is almost inevitable . . . . The law of divorce appears to be even less civilized than the criminal law." Judge Alexander described the American Bar Association committee's proposal to transform the divorce court from a morgue into a hospital. This plan, he explained, would take over almost bodily the entire philosophy, technique, and procedure of the juvenile

(Continued on page 4)
Divorce (Continued from page 3)

courts. In the juvenile court the criterion is what is best for the child; in the divorce court the criterion would be what is best for the family.

Other participants of the afternoon session discussing “Contributions to a Therapeutic Solution to the Divorce Problem” were Meyer F. Nimkoff, professor of sociology, Florida State University; Thomas M. French, M.D., associate director, Institute for Psychoanalysis, Chicago; and Emily H. Mudd, executive director, Marriage Council of Philadelphia. The discussion following Judge Alexander’s paper was opened by Francis J. Nosek, chairman, Matrimonial Law Committee, Chicago Bar Association, and Sarah Schaar, head of the Legal Department, Jewish Family and Community Services, Chicago.

Dean Edward H. Levi presided at the dinner session on the “Social and Legal Aspects of Family Conflict.” The Honorable Herbert F. Goodrich, Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, spoke on “Migratory Divorce.” The Honorable Anna M. Kross, Judge, Home Term Magistrates Court of the City of New York, discussed “The Two Civilizations.” Judge Kross described her “little court,” as she calls it, which appears to be doing a notable job of putting into practice many of the techniques which Judge Alexander and other participants projected as the desirable direction for the development of realistic divorce procedure.

The summary and appraisal of the all-day session was led by Professor Karl N. Llewellyn.

On Exhibition

The lobby of The Law School these days is serving as an art gallery. Frederico Castellon has loaned the School his nine paintings depicting “Memorable Victories in the Fight for Justice.” The subjects of the paintings which trace the history of the law in Western civilization are: “The Roman Praetor,” “Laws of Commerce,” “Rights of Citizens,” “Justinian’s Codification,” “Eternal Vigilance,” “Magna Carta,” “The Law and the King,” “Freedom of the Press,” and “Bill of Rights.”

Alumni may recall having seen the paintings, which were reproduced in Life magazine in the March 12, 1952, issue. Life commissioned the paintings and published with the pictures an article tracing the history of the rise of Western law by Judge Jerome Frank ’12. The exhibition is open to the public, and alumni are urged to come in at their convenience to see the paintings as well as the School’s bright new decorating job.

Placement

The new Law Placement Office under Dean of Students Sims Carter is in full operation. Alumni are urged to get in touch with Mr. Carter to discuss opportunities for law graduates in their firms.

Law Review Reunion Dinner

The second annual Law Review Reunion Dinner was held this year on April 4, 1952, at the Sheraton Hotel. More than seventy former editors joined with members of the faculty and present Law Review editors and competitors in the reunion. Edwin P. Wiley, editor-in-chief, reported on the 1951-52 year on the Law Review. Mr. Wiley was able to report on a series of successful issues and that his staff had maintained the Law Review tradition by operating during the past year under the usual deficit. He introduced former Law Review editor, Edward H. Levi, who served as toastmaster for the evening.

The two principal speakers at the reunion were introduced by Dean Levi. Mr. Charles Bane ’35, former chief investigator for the Aldermanic Commission recently established in the city of Chicago, was presented as an alumnus who was following in the best Teftian tradition. Not only did Mr. Bane receive a first in Jurisprudence while at Oxford but he recently became the father of twin sons.

Crime Investigator Bane described the working of the official committee established to investigate crime and corruption in Chicago. He reviewed with the group some of the issues which have arisen in the early part of the important job he has undertaken, such as whether subpoena power is reserved to the City Council or whether it can be used by the official committee.

The second speaker was Mr. Joseph Borkin, former economic consultant to the Antitrust Division, Department of State. Mr. Borkin is the author of Germany’s Master Plan, and he spoke at the reunion dinner under the provocative title, “How To Bribe a Judge.” He made a plea for the law schools and law research centers to turn a searchlight on problems of judicial corruption, upon which only the most scant literature exists.