urally, he will become more effective as he goes along, but this experience should come
from mediating, not from a background of partisan participation.

The chapters on the National Defense Mediation Board and the War Labor Board
provide a summary and uncritical biography of those agencies, but add nothing to our
knowledge about them. The author might, among other things, have evaluated the
problem of the proper scope of the board’s jurisdiction in terms of the mounting back-
log of unfinished cases. He might have mentioned the growing tendency of the parties,
and of the conciliation service for that matter, to dump into the War Labor Board’s
lap all manner of trifling disputes which, but for the ready availability of the board,
would be settled promptly by the parties themselves. The author’s figures on the
board’s effectiveness in mediating disputes are misleading. He limits his analysis to
cases as a whole instead of breaking the cases down into their component issues. Thus
a case, in which ten of the twelve certified issues are closed by mediation with a direc-
tive order required only on the two remaining issues (a typical instance), appears in
his tabulation as a case closed by directive order without any credit for the ten issues
mediated. The discussion of wage policy is amazingly thin and uncritical stuff. One
would think the author really believes that increases to correct “interplant inequi-
alties” are not manpower determination. One would also think that the author does not
recognize the necessary distinction (never explicit in decisions, of course) between the
application of stabilization policy in voluntary and disputed wage cases. The few pages
devoted to maintenance of membership are of little value.

There is also a brief discussion of various state and local labor laws and agencies.
Appendix A gives condensations of the state laws, but there is no critical evalua-
tion and, in view of the reactionary features in many state labor laws, one could wish that
the author had at least pointed out some of the potential dangers. In Appendix B the
author sets forth a model permanent mediation act.

The author attempts to vivisect the mediation technique. The attempt is not al-
gether unsuccessful, and the excerpts quoted from the analyses of various famous
mediators are alternately pompous and witty. But the author, perhaps out of squeam-
ishness, misses the mark. The mediator must have a basic integrity, not the semi-
peruked kind of the successful arbitrator, but a down-to-earth honesty that will con-
vince the parties he will not “sell them out” in his zeal to effect a compromise. At the
same time, paradoxically enough, he must, in moments of self-honesty, confess (as did
Shakespeare, who had nonetheless the basic integrity of an artist):

Alas! ’tis true I have gone here and there
And made myself a motley to the view,
Gor’d mine own thoughts, sold cheap what is most dear,
Made old offences of affection new;
Most true it is that I have looked on truth
Askance and strangely ....

JOHN O. LEVINSON*


While the federal Constitution provides that the war-making powers of the Re-
public shall be vested in Congress and the President, in a nation dedicated to local self-

* Member of the Connecticut Bar.
government the impact of a world struggle is not alone on the national structure. The violent convulsions initiated by international struggle are reflected in each municipality of the country by the creation of wholly new problems, by the appearance of new facets of old problems, and by new and intricate interrelationships of municipal governments with state and federal bodies.

That the corporation counsel, city attorneys, directors of law, city solicitors, municipal lawyers—regardless of how designated—of American cities are aware of this, that they are deeply concerned about developing solutions to war-born municipal problems, is clearly manifest in the annual compendium Municipalities and the Law in Action, which is made up of the reports and discussions delivered at the 1942 conference of the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers. This volume is the sixth in a series started in 1938 when the reviewer was President of the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers.

Within the 600-odd pages of the volume, city attorneys of the nation's principal cities have discussed, analyzed, and, in some cases, suggested solutions for, municipal war problems. Here are recorded the legal, economic, and political experiences of many cities at war. Here are discussed municipal personnel problems as they are affected by wartime manpower problems. Problems arising from the enlargement of federal powers during the conflict are weighed. Consideration is given to a vast array of other war-released problems by lawyers who are on the firing line of municipal defense.

Stylistically the volume varies, as any compendium must, from the smooth, easily read treatise to the factual and not very lively presentation; but, as a whole, it is not a book which any municipal official who suffers from insomnia should take to bed with him. It will not induce sleep.

It would be bromidic to say that no municipal office should be without a copy of this volume. No doubt the city office which did not have a copy handy would continue to function. But its officers and employees would be better informed on what is going on in America's cities if a copy were readily available.

Although primarily the volume is directed to the lawyer interested in municipal activities, every citizen interested in the legal and political functions of American cities will find Municipalities and the Law in Action informative and thought-provoking.

BARNET HODES*

*Corporation Counsel, City of Chicago.