

Marquette Law Review

Volume 10
Issue 2 February 1926

Article 8

1926

Editorial Comment

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Repository Citation

J. M. O'Brien, *Editorial Comment*, 10 Marq. L. Rev. 91 (1926).

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Marquette Law Review

PUBLISHED DECEMBER, FEBRUARY, APRIL, AND JUNE BY THE STUDENTS OF MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW. \$2.00 PER ANNUM. 60 CENTS PER CURRENT NUMBER

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Advocates of federalized education have introduced to the present Congress another bill for the establishment of a federal bureau of education. In this bill, there are the usual provisions for a federal secretary of education and federal subsidies for all the public schools in the various states of the Union, with a sort of partition of the expenses of education between local authorities and the federal government.

There are some who say that the real result of such legislation would be the abolition of the sectarian schools—that the purpose in mind is not the regulation of education but rather the ulterior motive of bringing to an end religious instruction in schools. Whatever may be the merits of this contention, there are many other reasons why the materialization of such a movement should be cut short.

The present federal subsidies for the building of good roads are always conditioned upon agreement by the local authorities to the specifications of the road builders of the Department of Agriculture. The federal government hands out its money for a consideration—the price of submission to federal ideas as expressed by the administrative departments and by Congress.

The first step that Congress would take should such a bill become a part of the law, would be to provide that only to those schools which do not teach certain things or which do teach certain other things, would federal subsidies be granted. What a whip hand! It is a well known fact that a great number of school boards are composed of so-called men of business acumen—men who might readily submit to the federal bribe of money for local educational purposes—even if given conditionally. We would then have throughout the United States, schools suborned in

their most intimate intellectual and moral teachings by one central bureaucratic clique situated in the city of Washington.

Further than that, the bill would be another blow to state and local self-government. If the door is opened to federal control of education, there is no limit to the extension of federal encroachment on state and local ownership of educational institutions. The ill results of such a measure would be almost impossible to prevent if it becomes a law.

Now is the time to voice disapproval. Popular opposition has always been the weapon to combat what is not in accord with the inherent rights of American citizenship.

"The world court is an instrument for peace, a practical instrument. Both political parties have indorsed it, and the senate will give the necessary two-thirds majority for an adherence of the United States to it."

Thus spoke Senator Irvine L. Lenroot of the world court at a meeting of the Milwaukee Bar Association held December 30. Mr. Lenroot discussed the court from a legal standpoint and dwelt principally on the fact that the court would have no jurisdiction over cases concerning the United States except those cases which this country would consent to submit to it. The payment of approximately \$35,000 for the upkeep of the court was declared to be the only obligation that would be incurred. In return, there would be satisfaction at feeling that the most powerful nation in the world had given its indorsement and encouragement to an instrument of peace.

While declaring emphatically that our entrance into the court would in no way compel a like entrance into the League of Nations, Mr. Lenroot appeared to have no substantial argument to support his contention. The subject of the possibility of enforcing the court's decrees was not discussed by the senator, leaving a doubt in the minds of many present as to how this might be done without the support of the League of Nations, and consequently entailing our membership therein. However, the senator was well received by the members of the Bar.

President Boesel promised additional features for the future monthly meetings of the association. He urged support of the local organization and pointed out that it was on the bulwark of such associations that the state and national bar associations attained their achievements and importance.

The annual meeting of the state board of Circuit Judges took place in Milwaukee during the latter part of December. Judge A. H. Reid of

Wausau, was re-elected chairman for the coming year. Judge James Wickham of Eau Claire is vice chairman.

Delivering the principal address, Judge Reid flayed the so-called "great criminal lawyer," who makes a business of securing acquittals of guilty men and who considers it a creditable achievement. Among safeguards for the accused recommended by the judge for abolition is the constitutional provision against self-incrimination. He declared that this provision is responsible for the "third degree," which he termed one of the worst abuses in our administration of the criminal law.

Justice Christian Doerfler of the Wisconsin Supreme Court expressed his belief in the maxim that "it is better that ninety-nine guilty persons be set free than that one innocent person should be punished." He concluded that as between the administration of the criminal law in this country and that of Canada and England, our own was preferable as following the juster and saner course.

In connection with the June issue of the present volume, a complete and comprehensive index-digest covering every article ever published in the REVIEW will be offered to our readers. The editorial board is extending every effort towards making this an exhaustive digest in the hope that it will prove of material aid to the busy practitioner.

Reprints of two back numbers of the REVIEW were recently completed. This brings our file up to date in every respect and any issue can now be immediately furnished on application. A limited number of complete sets have been bound. To those who have a number of old copies on hand, the matter of obtaining a bound set could be accomplished at a small cost. The REVIEW has always made it a point to publish nothing but what was considered worth-while articles, partly in the hope that our subscribers would preserve their copies and have them accessible when needed. It is worth your time and money to send us your old numbers, that we may send you bound volumes in return.

J. O'B.