

from personal experience I know that being on the firing line is a strain.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Kathleen Robie.

DELEGATE ROBIE: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegatess, as one of the non-bar members of this Convention, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Chairman Mudd, and also to Delegate Johnson and the other lawyers who led us through this legal maze.

I confess at the time I felt a little sympathy for the words of Carl Sandburg that I ran across the other day in A BOOK OF DAYS. The poem was entitled "Lawyers Know Too Much" and in there Carl Sandburg said: "Why is there always a secret singing when a lawyer cashes in? Why does a hearse snicker hauling a lawyer away?"

But I rise not to bury the barristers but to praise them. We thank them all for our legal education and we feel that this has been a very fine job.

THE CHAIRMAN: And the Chair on behalf of all the lawyer delegates thanks Kathleen Robie as a lay member of the Convention.

*(Applause.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: The next item on the agenda is consideration of Committee Recommendation GP-4. Let me inform the Convention that on your behalf, I have made a representation which I am sure you will carry out.

We do not wish to carry this recommendation over. At the same time I think it is entitled to the full consideration of this Committee of the Whole.

Delegate Boyer was obliged to leave a few minutes ago, and, unfortunately, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Delegate Wheatley, has been taken ill. Delegate Key, a member of that Committee, will present the report, but in accordance with the plan previously worked out when Delegate Boyer intended to present it, the principal presentation will be by Delegate Bard upon whose proposal this recommendation is largely based.

The Chair has assured Delegate Bard that the fact that his proposal is coming up at a late hour this afternoon will not deprive him of the earnest consideration of this body. Delegate Key.

As previously indicated, we have made special effort to have the legislation on

LB-2 distributed to you before you left. It is now distributed by the pages. This item will be on the agenda early next week. I urge you to take LB-2 with you, it will make fine weekend reading. particularly before and not after the Thanksgiving dinner.

Delegate Key.

DELEGATE KEY: Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen of the Committee of the Whole: I hope that you will give us your considered attention, and most benevolent consideration of this most controversial proposal. The general provisions for consideration cover delegate proposal numbers 250 and 285, which dealt with consumer protection. The articles as proposed by the Committee will read: "The General Assembly shall by law provide for the protection and education of the citizens of the state against harmful and unfair business practices."

This article was considered by the Committee to be a fundamental duty of the state government to provide for the protection of the public against unethical and deceptive business practices.

This duty of the state warrants constitutional expression to assure that existing protective law in this area will be continued and expanded.

Every citizen must be guaranteed a real opportunity to protect himself against the deceptive representations of persons who would take his money without giving reasonably fair returns.

After consideration by the Committee as to the meaning of the terms in the article, the recommended language was set forth to mean that the General Assembly is given a broad mandate to do those things listed in the article. The word "education" on line 6 is included to make clear that the state's duty is not discharged solely by restricting or punishing unethical dealers after the fact, but must also include substantial efforts to assist the public in recognizing an improper transaction before the fact.

The word "unfair" on line 7 is chosen to encompass not only the concepts of dishonest, dishonorable, deceptive or unethical, but also bargaining advantages arising from special knowledge available to the trade but not to the general public.

The word "business" on line 7 also is intended to encompass any exchange of goods or services for compensation or any inducement to enter into such an exchange.