Message from the Editor

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The Lawyer of the Americas is under constant scrutiny by those responsible for its publication. Is it true to its fundamental objective to provide a medium through which major inter-American legal and legally related developments may be promulgated in the Western Hemisphere? Is the material published of value to the reader, timely, well expressed? These and related questions are constantly asked as deadline follows deadline in the publishing of the Lawyer.

This constant self-analysis—to us a serious and unequivocal responsibility—led us to eliminate the report on Legal Education in October 1972. Similarly, we have reached the crossroads with the report on Economic Developments. We have no apologies to offer regarding the substance of that report. Messrs. Landy and Harper (more about them later) have done an excellent job for many years. Our concern was with the nature of the information which, in order to be of value, needed currency. Much against our wishes we found ourselves reporting “after the fact” and, in many instances repeating information available to our readers in publications offered much more frequently than the Lawyer. In short, we realized that given our publication schedule of thrice a year our economic information lacked timeliness, and did not meet the test “to alert”—one of the Lawyer’s objectives.

Thus the Economic Report will not appear in this, nor future issues of the Lawyer. But, the matter cannot end there. The decision to eliminate a leading feature carries with it a correlative obligation to fill the gap. We intend to do this through a special feature entitled Civil Law Lexicon. The title is self-explanatory, and we start off this new venture with Sentencias, a subject constantly arising in the inter-American legal area. The sense of the new feature is, we feel, best caught by reading Sentencias than by explaining it in this note to the readers.

One thing remains unsaid concerning the Economic Report. The Lawyer is deeply grateful to Burton A. Landy, Esq. and George R. Harper, Esq. for their labors in its behalf. Mr. Landy is one of the original Contributing Editors; Mr. Harper a more recent, but also a most helpful and faithful collaborator. Both of them busy attorneys they have nevertheless complied with our incessant, if not unreasonable demands to meet the deadlines imposed by the nature of our work.
The Lawyer exists because of the caliber of the individuals mentioned above. To them on this particular occasion goes the deep appreciation of the Editor-in-Chief for their loyalty in years past. This personal recognition is, on this opportunity, also extended to those still "left behind" to carry on the mission of the Lawyer. A task not without merit, but largely unrewarded except for the self-satisfaction of having assumed and met a commitment to the jurists of the Americas.

The appreciation we extend to Messrs. Landy and Harper is likewise extended to two other Contributing Editors—Dr. Francisco Orrego-Vicuña, Co-Editor of the Latin American Economic Integration Report, who is returning to Chile to head the Institute of International Studies at the University of Chile, and to Jacob M. Denaro, Esq. who must give up the Aviation Report because of the press of work in the Office of the Public Defender in Miami. To these two distinguished American jurists, as well as to Dr. José R. Cuervo of Miami, who has collaborated for many years in the preparation of the Economic Report goes our most sincere gratefulness.

And, since the "show must go on" others have come forward to fill the gaps created by those departing. Specifically, Dr. Francisco García Amador, Director, Department of Legal Affairs, Organization of American States has volunteered once again to assume joint responsibility for the Latin American Economic Integration Report. Also, William D. Buttrey, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board will undertake the Aviation Report. Lastly, L. G. Mallon, Esq., has joined Professor T. A. Clingan as Co-Editor of The Ocean Report. We welcome our new colleagues warmly, knowing the trust placed in them will be well and faithfully discharged.

R. C. Benitez