President's Page

William B. Spong Jr.
THE Summer Meeting at Hot Springs is almost upon us. Elsewhere in the Journal you may read the complete program, a scheduled variety of events that offers education, entertainment, enlightenment and exercise. There is something for everyone.

I direct your attention to the three panel discussions on the program. On Friday evening, the Young Lawyers will present a program on the American Constitution featuring a law professor, an editor, a Congressman and a professor of government. The Banking and Commercial Law Committee will present a program on electronic banking Saturday morning. Following this, in keeping with our policy of having current matters of controversy discussed before the membership, President-elect Hugo Blankingship has assembled a panel of experts who will discuss "Advertising: What Lies Ahead?" The speakers who will review the recent changes in the ABA's Standards of Professional Conduct relating to advertising have spoken out on this subject when the proposal was considered in Chicago and at the mid-winter meeting of the ABA in Philadelphia.

Films will also be shown during the meeting about advertising by lawyers, electronic banking and on the Supreme Court.

Young Lawyers' Bicentennial Project

The Supreme Court film is a special project by our Young Lawyers' Section. I view the film as one of the most exciting efforts the Association has sponsored. The Virginia young lawyers, as a Bicentennial project, in conjunction with the Young Lawyers Section of the American Bar Association, have produced a unique 30-minute color film on the United States Supreme Court entitled "Supreme Court." The film features Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, Associate Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., and Retired Justice Tom C. Clark, and has been aired around the State on educational and public broadcasting stations. It is anticipated that the film will be shown on National Public Broadcasting stations as well. *

Survey on Attitudes Toward Lawyers

The Special Committee that arranged for the Virginia Survey on attitudes toward lawyers continues its work as the Association begins to implement suggestions arising from the survey. Since their presentation

*Editor's Note: The production of this film is discussed in detail in the YLS Committee Report found in The Bar Association Proceedings Section of this issue.
at our Williamsburg meeting, members of the committee have spoken at the University of Virginia Law Day and to the Charlottesville, Fairfax, Norfolk and Richmond Bar Associations. They will make themselves available to speak to other bar groups.

On June 18th the Association sponsored a layleaders’ conference at the Woodberry Forest School as a follow-up to the survey. A large group of non-lawyers, divided into four groups, discussed the public attitudes reflected by the survey, particularly regarding fees, the disciplining of lawyers, the competency of lawyers and advertising by lawyers. A report of these proceedings will be made at Hot Springs and in the next edition of the Journal. The Association continues in the debt of Hugh Patterson, John Ryan, Randolph Church, Ammon Dunton, Allan Goolsby, Rod Matthews, Dewey Morris, Dean Roy Steinheimer and Jay Walker. They have given yeoman service in arranging for the survey, documenting its findings, and advising the lawyers of Virginia how others see us.

Ned Slaughter, Chairman of our Executive Committee, has assigned for study to the various committees of the Associations those findings of the survey that relate to their respective jurisdictions. These should be discussed at the Committee meetings on Friday morning at Hot Springs.

National Center for State Courts

On May 8th, ground was broken for the National Center for State Courts at Williamsburg. The ceremony featured addresses by Chief Justice Lawrence l’Anson of Virginia and Chief Justice Warren Burger of the Supreme Court of the United States. Outlined with ribbons were the foundation lines of the Center and for the new Marshall-Wythe School of Law to be constructed adjacent thereto. Justice l’Anson acknowledged the efforts of former Governor Linwood Holton and Governor Mills Godwin, along with many groups and individuals to make the National Center a reality in Virginia, and stated that the Center and the new Marshall-Wythe law building would constitute a national law center for the Commonwealth. The Association was represented at the ground breaking by your President and by former President Gibson Harris who is in charge of our continuing effort to raise the $100,000.00 pledged toward construction of the Center. The occasion was a momentous one for the Commonwealth of Virginia and for its bench and bar.

Trip to Russia

I am scheduled to lead a delegation of members of the Virginia Bar Association who will visit Belgium, Holland, Russia, Bulgaria and Britain in late July and August. This is a People-to-People Mission and with the aid of the State Department we will be visiting law school facilities, court sessions and with lawyers of those nations. The Mission is scheduled to depart from New York on Saturday, July 24, 1976, and return Saturday, August 14, 1976. Four days are scheduled in Moscow and four in Leningrad.

Virginia and I look forward to seeing you at Hot Springs before we leave.

Ground Breaking for the National Center

Left to right: President Spong, Former President Gibson Harris, Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justice Finch of Missouri.