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54/08/18 Letter to the Editor "Quotes Guide for Attorneys"

Cleveland Press

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

Press, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1954 Quotes Guide for Attorneys

I agree with Malcolm Holmes of North Royalton. He is a most "uneducated layman." I will not discuss the implied snide nature of his remarks. I will deal only with his explicit statements.

An attorney is never committed to one type of practice. His professional obligations are to his clients, whomsoever they may be, and to the court. In both cases he must secure to the best of his talents and abilities, the due administration of justice, an obligation which the attorney must fulfill with honorable zeal.

Now, conscience is the sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions or character, together with a feeling of obligation to be right or do good.

It is an intellectual faculty, which looks to an objective not a subjective standard of morality.

One of the basic guides for an attorney is the following, taken from the Code of Legal Ethics, with which attorneys must be conversant, it is one of the objective ethical standards which control his professional life:

"It is the right of the lawyer to undertake the defense of a person accused of crime, regardless of his personal opinion as to the guilt of the accused; otherwise, innocent persons, victims only of suspicious circumstances, might be denied proper defense. The lawyer is bound by all fair and honorable means, to present every defense that the law of the land permits, to the end that no person may be deprived of life or liberty, but by due process of law. The primary duty of a lawyer engaged in public prosecution is not to convict, but to see that justice is done. . . ."

The converse would be Germany after the Reichstag fire, or Russia with Molotov as purge prosecutor.

WILLIAM J. SHIELDS, 9505 Gaylord Ave.