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Letter to Dillard Gardner regarding a potential book club, October 7, 1940

Norman Block

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Mr. Dillard S. Gardner, Chairman  
Committee on Law Libraries and Publications  
Supreme Court of North Carolina  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Dillard:

Please excuse my delay in answering your letter relative to the report of the Committee on Law Libraries and Publications, but I have been out of town and have just returned to the office. Since I have not devoted a great deal of thought to the subject matter of your letter, I naturally can not offer anything of a constructive nature to be included in the report which is now in the process of preparation and which will be published in the near future. It strikes me, however, that something certainly must be done to make the law book dollar travel a greater distance, especially among young lawyers. The "Book of the Month" Club plan might be an excellent idea, if practical from a financial standpoint, to stimulate reading among the average lawyers of practical treatment of controversial subjects in law, and of proposed reforms, both in adjective and substantive law.

I am in accord with you in your statement that definite action should be taken in regard to the publication of the Code. This is a book which should be prepared, if possible, under the direction of the Attorney General's office, and I do not see any reason why it should not be printed in North Carolina. I certainly feel, and I think I express the opinion of most of the lawyers in our section, that anything new would be an improvement on the index which the Michie Company publishes with the Code. If the Code is published in four volumes, it seems that it would be practical to bind the book so that the annotations could be kept up to date yearly by way of supplement, without the necessity of a new Code every four years. We should present to the present General Assembly a request for an adequate and permanent provision for the Codification Division of the Attorney General's office, provided the expense
of running such a division would not be too great for such benefit as might result from it. I suggest that further study be made in regard to this matter between now and the time that the legislature meets in January of next year.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Norman Block

NB-c