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Letter to Dillard Gardner regarding lists for a project, April 13, 1939

William Roalfe

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Mr. Dillard S. Gardner, Librarian
Supreme Court Library
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Gardner:

I want to report that as per your instructions I invited Judge Spears to present the matter of bar libraries to the Tenth District Bar Association when it met here yesterday. I am glad to be able to state that he did this quite effectively and that Miss Covington had in advance revised her list in the light of the criticisms offered and had mimeographed copies which were distributed to members quite generally. So far as I have been able to ascertain the response was as good as we could expect and I know that a good deal of interest was shown in several instances, including some of the members of our faculty, two or three of whom have offered suggestions of merit.

In talking with Dean Horack, who is very much interested in what we are trying to do, he offered two suggestions that I pass on for your consideration. The first was that we do not overlook the possibility that the voluntary bar association will be helpful in connection with this matter inasmuch as its powers are much broader than those of the State Bar. If I remember correctly the North Carolina Bar Association meets in June.

A second suggestion was to the effect that if there is any way to interest the judiciary in general, their support would be invaluable for obvious reasons. I don't remember whether Judge Spears presented the judges point of view at the time he talked to us on Friday, but he did make a good deal of this in my conversation with him when he pointed out that the trial judge was at a serious disadvantage in many of the smaller communities when he could not secure the reports which he needed, as the sets in the court house were usually incomplete, except by borrowing from attorneys who were appearing in his court. If other judges have felt this embarrassment it seems to me that they might be vitally interested in seeing that something is done.

It was a great pleasure to see you again, but I, for one, regret that our meetings are so short, as it gives us very little opportunity for altogether informal conversation and for visiting.

Sincerely,

[Signature]