

1986

Review of State Legislative Sourcebook

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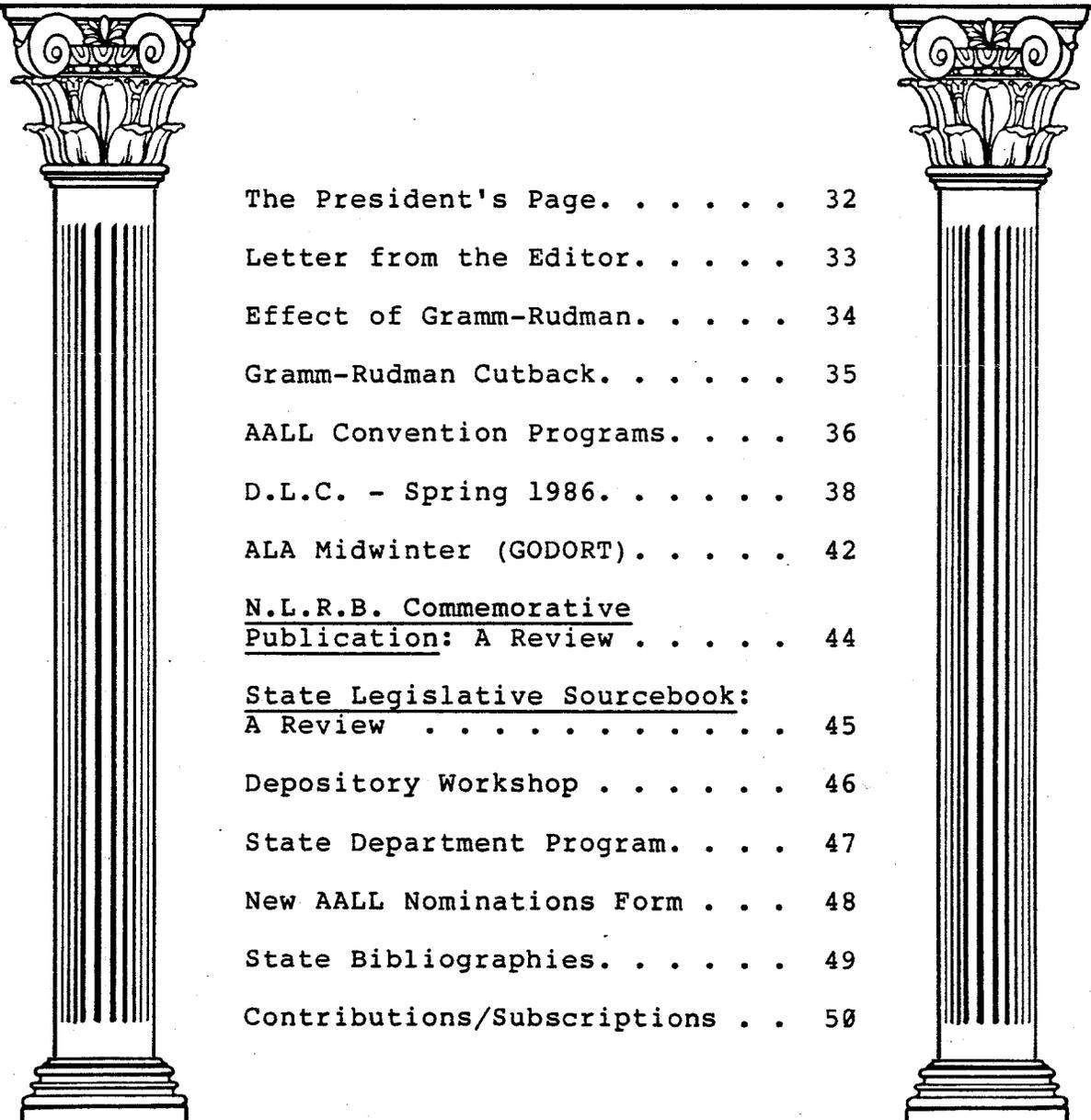
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Newsletter of the American Association of Law Libraries
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of the supporting documents have been gathered together in one source. This provides valuable information to any student of labor law seeking a better understanding of the process leading to the passage of the law. Their titles are: **Legislative History of the National Labor Relations Act, 1935** (LR1.5:L22/v.1-2); **Legislative History of the Labor Management Act, 1947** (LR1.5:Lii/3/v.1-2), and **Legislative History of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959** (LR.5:L11/7/v.1-2)

Each volume is arranged by house with each piece of legislation presented in chronological order along with supporting materials. While this arrangement may at first appear difficult to the user who wishes to study only one section of the law, it need not be an obstacle. Three indexes have been created to aid the researcher - a sectional index (from the law to the historical document), a topical index, and an index to names and cases cited within.

Every effort has been made to duplicate the document as it first appeared. Original page numbers appear in brackets, with each page of the history being numbered sequentially aid in the index reference. The index references are also differentiated to give a clearer idea to the user of just what they are looking at. Bold-face type indicates drafts of bills, italics indicate hearings and roman print is indication of Congressional reports and proceedings.

Overall, these reprints are a valuable addition to any collection whose users are interested in any aspect of the work of the NLRB or in the history of the labor movement in this country.

Hellebust, Lynn. **State Legislative Sourcebook--1986: A Resource Guide to Legislative Information in the Fifty States.** (Topeka, KS: Government Research Service, 1985.) pp. iv, 465. Looseleaf. \$95.00. To be revised and republished annually.

To keep up with the latest proposals and enactments of the fifty state legislatures, the librarian or user must deal with fifty different information systems. **State Legislative Sourcebook** is a well organized and comprehensive guide to the state legislatures, their support agencies, and their documents.

The main portion of the volume consists of fifty uniform outlines, each of which gives textual, bibliographic, and directory information about one state legislature. Text includes summaries of legislative organization, session data, financial disclosure requirements, and lobbyists' registration procedures. Bibliographic entries are not limited to state government publications ("How a Bill Becomes a Law" pamphlets, directories, bluebooks, etc.), but also include privately published works about the legislatures, some of which would otherwise be difficult for the non-local researcher to track down. Annotations give adequate descriptions of listed publications. Directory information is thorough and precise. Whenever an office, library, or publisher is listed, its complete address and telephone number is furnished. Price information accompanies all listings of publications and copying services. Hellebust's attention to detail is exemplified by his anticipation of changes in the phone system of one state

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(Alabama); old and new numbers are given along with the effective date of the change. In several other instances, he provides phone numbers for assistance in obtaining annually changing toll-free numbers. Users seeking bill status or copies of bills--probably the two most frequent users of the **Sourcebook**--will appreciate the author's carefulness.

Appendices include fifty-state directories of bill status services and bill rooms. These listings repeat information given in the outlines, but in a format that is handy to the user who wishes to canvass many states on a particular issue. Also included is an extensive and critically annotated bibliography on the legislative process and on influencing legislatures.

As a state-by-state guide to legislative materials, the **Sourcebook** invites comparison to Mary Fisher's **Guide to State Legislative Materials**, 3d ed. (AALL/Rothman, 1985). The tools overlap in their coverage of current legislative resources. Beyond this, they differ considerably in emphasis. Fisher's **Guide** offers assistance in accessing the bills and legislative history of past sessions, a valuable service to attorneys and legal scholars. The **Sourcebook** does not deal with historical materials of this type and also omits references to state codes and administrative materials, both of which are included in the **Guide**. On the other hand, the **Sourcebook** offers more in the way of text and references to aid the researcher's understanding of the workings of today's legislatures. At the risk of overgeneralization, the **Sourcebook** might be termed a lobbyist's tool, and the **Guide** a lawyer's tool. Many libraries will want both.

State Legislative Sourcebook is an attractive publication. Its wordprocessed composition makes intelligent use of type fonts and whitespace, making the outlines easy to follow. At \$95.00, the **Sourcebook** is an expensive single-volume tool. Despite its looseleaf format, the publisher states that it will be updated and republished annually in its entirety. Prospective buyers who are put off by the high price might consider purchasing the **Sourcebook** biennially. Most of its information should stay current over two years. (Publisher's address: Government Research Service, P.O. Box 2041, Topeka, KS 66601.)

PAUL M. BIRCH

SIS SPONSORS WORKSHOP AT GPO FOR DEPOSITORY LAW LIBRARIANS

Sixty-two people are registered to attend our post-convention workshop, the first ever sponsored by GD/SIS. This workshop, "Depository Library Workshop for Law Librarians at the Government Printing Office," will take place on Thursday, July 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the GPO Building in Washington, D.C. The staff of GPO's Library Programs Service (LPS) will present the day's program, which will be directed in part toward the specific interests of law librarians.

Workshop contents will focus on three general areas: policy, operations, and administration. Policy topics will include how the mission of LPS is affected by fiscal concerns, such as Gramm-Rudman-Hollings and OMB Circular A-130 ("Management of Federal Information Resources"). Discussion of operations will consider acquisitions procedures,