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Lawyers Guild Convention Maps Defense of Liberties

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By WILLIAM ALLAN

DETROIT, Feb. 20.—A well rounded out program in defense of civil rights, a call for a return to the spirit of Geneva in U. S. foreign policy, and attendance by 250 delegates and many legal notables were high points at the recent National Lawyers Guild convention held here last week.

The Guild reelected Maloony Sharp, professor of law at the University of Chicago, as president, and Royal W. France as executive secretary.

Greetings came to the convention from Gov. Mennen Williams and U. S. Sen. Pat McNamara. The featured speaker at the Guild banquet was Frank Blazey, who told of organized labor's stand on civil rights and civil liberties, in one of the most forthright speeches ever delievered before an audience of judges, lawyers, politicians and labor leaders.

Guild resolutions flowing out of panel discussions asked for repeal of the McCarran-Walter Act, and the McCarran internal security act, attacked abuse of the Smith Act, condemned the Taft-Hartley Act and the right to work laws in 18 states. Federal tax laws should be amended to raise personal income tax exemptions from $600 a person to $800 and the tax rate on the first $1,000 of taxable income should be lowered 15 percent.

legal profession were present, marking a big breakout from the McCarthyite hysteria that kept away many liberals, defenders of the Constitution from some Guild activities.

The speakers' table at the banquet was a glittering array of legal talent. From Detroit and Michigan, beginning with Mazey, there came judges, Nathan Kaufman, Theodore Bohn, William Coody and Thomas C. Murphy. Greetings came from the chief Federal Justice here, Arthur Lederle, "for a successful convention."

Sen. McNamara wired to Judge Patrick O'Brien, honorary president of the Detroit chapter, "No words from me are necessary to remind the National Lawyers Guild of the need for vigilance and action in protecting the Bill of Rights from assault. The record of the Guild speaks for itself. Here in Washington I will continue to do my utmost to protect the individual freedom established by our valiant and farseeing forefathers."

Judge O'Brien was awarded the Franklin D. Roosevelt award for 1956 by the Guild convention. The judge, a champion of civil rights for over 50 years, said:

"Through its existence there has been no disposition on the part of the Guild as an organization to support any specific poli[illegible]

Brownell made a statement amounting to a ukase referring to the Guild as a 'subversive' organization and expressed his intention to wipe out the organization."

The juge said the only "front" that the Guild constitutes is a solid front functioning wherever necessary to defend and extend the civil liberties of all the American people.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, in Detroit to sell bonds for Israel, stopped in at a cocktail party given by the officers of the Guild for delegates. She posed for pictures with president Sharp and secretary France.

Charles King, Dean of the Detroit College of Law, William Bell, president of the Wolverine Bar Association, Harold Bledsoe, president of the National Bar Association, Nathan Goodman, president of the Detroit Bar, and heads of the Highland Park and Hamtramck bar association were present. Chester Smith, president of the Detroit Chapter, National Lawyers Guild, former Judge Delaney of New York and the president of the integrated State Bar were also there.

Arthur D. Shores, attorney for Miss Autherine Lucy, sent warm greetings.

Scores of non-Guild lawyers from Michigan attended as observers and some of the speakers, like Charles Lockwood, nationally known lawyer who has won many cases against government efforts to fire workers on "disloyalty"

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