

# A Symposium of Forewords

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## FOREWORD NO. 1

### *Who Made This Book*

THE compilation of the material in this volume has been made by S. Smith Griswold, with the counsel of Dr. George C. S. Benson, who has actively participated in all stages of the work. Miss Mabel Gibberd and other members of the staff of the Council of State Governments and of the American Legislators' Association have also assisted in the editorial work and have otherwise contributed to the production of this book.

## FOREWORD NO. 2

### *What's Where in This Volume*

THIS book was prepared on the principle that an organization is useful only to those who know how to use it. Many of the groups working for the improvement of state government and for interstate cooperation are unaware of the extent to which parallel groups are engaged in the same field. As the nearest approach to a clearing house between the forty-eight state governments, the joint secretariat of the Council of State Governments and the American Legislators' Association is making active efforts to bring about some blending of movements for the improvement of state government and of cooperation between the states.

To move toward that goal, it has been necessary to institute several agencies. As a result, the American Legislators' Association has expanded to such an extent that many of the active members of the Association are not fully aware of the purport and extent of all its functions. For their benefit, and for the benefit of the many legislators who are new to the Association, this handbook is published. Especially for the new legislators of 1935, this volume

should be a useful account of the various ways in which their association can help them.

When the American Legislators' Association was founded—almost a decade ago—earnest and far-seeing men realized that it might be useful, but few of them foresaw the broad scope of its ultimate usefulness. The necessity for meetings of legislators from the various states was apparent, although the Association did not acquire sufficient momentum to organize the First Interstate Assembly of official delegates from the various states for seven years. The desirability of a magazine devoted to problems of State Government was recognized, but not until 1930 did the periodical of that name first appear. Then came other off-shoots in rapid succession. A well-staffed clearing house of information, known as the Interstate Reference Bureau, was established. Research bulletins were issued to supplement the magazine. A commission to deal with one of the most pressing of interstate problems—conflicting taxation—was organized by the First Interstate Assembly. Efforts are now being directed toward a

## THE BOOK OF THE STATES

new synthesis of interstate activity through the organization of the Council of State Governments, which will bring executive and administrative efforts toward greater harmony between the states into a common cause with similar legislative efforts.

Your interest in this book will vary with your interest in state government. If you want to know where the most accurate available information on state tax problems can be obtained, read the chapter concerning the Interstate Commission on Conflicting Taxation. If you are concerned with the apparently irresistible rush toward federal centralization, read about the Council of

State Governments. If you wish to know where you can secure up-to-date ideas on state and interstate problems, glance through the chapter dealing with the periodical, "State Government." If you wish convincing proof that legislators in the forty-eight states can render a national service by combining to meet their common problems, read the chapters on the American Legislators' Association.

And while you read this book, remember that it sketches merely the beginnings of various cooperative endeavors—in the fulfillment of which every government official may take a part.

### FOREWORD NO. 3

#### *The Future "Book of the States"*

THIS volume is nothing but a lick and a promise. It is the meager and unorganized beginning of a periodical publication which may eventually become a very useful reference book.

Later editions will probably begin with an organization chart for each of the forty-eight state governments. These editions will be made up, in effect, of thirty or forty or more separate handbooks—one concerning each of such subjects as:

- Health
- Public Schools
- Taxation
- Labor
- Parks and Recreation
- Libraries
- Social Welfare
- Higher Education
- Transportation and Communication
- Highways
- Public Utilities
- Control of Crime
- Motor Vehicles
- Agriculture
- Banking

Each of the many handbooks thus consolidated in a single binding, will contain,

among other matters, the following information:

(1) A roster of the heads of the department of departments concerned with the subject in each state.

(2) A table indicating the size and character of the organization of the department in each state.

(3) One or more tables, with brief supplementary text, showing the substantive laws relating to the field in each state.

(4) A table showing the name of the leading consultant on the subject in the major universities in each state.

(5) A list of the principal publications issued on the subject by each of the states.

(6) A statement concerning any efforts for legislative uniformity or administrative cooperation on the subject in the various states.

(7) A paragraph concerning each national association of state officials dealing with the subject, including the names and addresses of their principal officers.

(8) A brief list of leading reference books relating to the subject.

Somewhat similar sections will be incorporated concerning the departments conducted in the various states by each of the

major officials, such as: Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer. Especial attention will be given to the legislative departments of the forty-eight states. In this section or elsewhere there will be data relating, for instance, to state planning boards, legislative councils, and legislative reference bureaus.

The American Legislators' Association intends to prepare rules of order for state legislatures, and to incorporate these rules in the successive editions of the "Book of the States." These rules of order will supplement and simplify the present rules of the

forty-eight senates and of the forty-eight houses of representatives.

When this plan is carried out, this book will become an essential working tool for every state legislator, as well as for every important official of every state. It will also be an essential reference book in every newspaper office, in every political science department, in every public library.

Obviously, such a volume will facilitate the cooperation of state governments.

Suggestions on the proper contents and arrangement of future editions of this book will be much appreciated.

#### FOREWORD NO. 4

### *State Handbooks*

IN THE succeeding editions of this volume, there will be more information concerning the handbooks issued by the various states. Practically every state publishes a handbook, but no two of these books are alike. A library of these handbooks is as variegated as a kennel containing mastiffs, poodles, dachshunds, collies, and forty-four other varieties of dogs. The Council of State Governments proposes to prepare

a table of contents for a model state handbook. The value of state handbooks to scholars, officials and others will be infinitely increased if the material is presented in a form which permits comparison between states. The administrative offices of the Council of State Governments will gladly give advice to any state, upon request, concerning the preparation and form of its handbook.