

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARBITRATORS

Committee on research and education

January 15, 1954

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

This report on recent activities is being submitted to the Board of Governors by the Chairman of the Committee. The whole Committee, unfortunately, has not had an opportunity to review the report in advance. This is because the Chairman wanted to include the results of the Committee's survey, which did not become available until very recently.

The Committee this year agreed upon a three point program:

- (1) Survey of Academy members to establish the "vital statistics" of arbitrators and arbitration.
- (2) Arbitration bibliography to provide all members with a comprehensive up-to-date list of written materials.
- (3) Research clearinghouse to supply members with the results of research and to provide students with the opportunity to consult experienced arbitrators.

The Committee felt that these projects could be most effectively administered at universities with labor relations centers. The Institute of Industrial Relations at UCLA agreed to assume responsibility for the survey.

The Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations agreed to do the bibliography. When work was about to begin, however, it was discovered that the American Arbitration Association had just completed a comprehensive bibliography. In light of this fact, Cornell was asked to drop the project. The Chairman recommends that the Academy ask the AAA to supply each Academy member with a copy of this bibliography, scheduled for publication in January 1954.

The clearinghouse responsibility has not thus far been finally placed. At the time of writing negotiations are under way with Cornell to do the job. This School, unquestionably, is better situated than any other to undertake the responsibility because of its library and publication facilities. The Chairman hopes for the success of these negotiations.

The results of the survey of ^{arbitration} conducted by UCLA are incorporated in this report. A description of the method employed, a narrative statement of the results, and some questions about future policy follow immediately. Appendix A sets forth the tabulations in detail. Mrs. Anne P. Cook of the Institute's staff made the tabulations.

The survey was drafted by the Chairman and was approved by the whole Committee. It was mailed with a covering letter from the President to the list of 197 members supplied by the Secretary. It went out in two parts, the first general and the second financial. This was done to preserve anonymity with respect to the latter. The membership cooperated very well; 115 (58.4%) returned the general form and 113 (57.4%) the financial form.

The results must be regarded as suggestive rather than precise for a variety of reasons: the fact that a very large minority failed to reply; the fact that there

is no way of knowing how many arbitrators are not Academy members; the fact that some respondents interpreted a few questions differently; and the fact that some members estimated their caseload. The survey gives us, then, a general picture of the Academy membership and, if it is representative, of arbitrators and arbitration as a whole. On the question of representativeness it is probable that the survey includes a larger proportion of the very active arbitrators (those with large umpireships and important railroad assignments) and a smaller proportion of those who do very little work.

The results in narrative form follow:

1. The arbitrator is mature in years, 49.7 being the average age. No one is younger than 34 and only 13 are under 40.

2. The typical arbitrator is exceedingly well-educated. All have had some college work and only 5 have failed to complete at least the B. A. degree. About 54% hold legal degrees and 36% are Ph. Ds.

3. Almost all arbitrators engage in some other profession. The majority are in academic life (almost all of them in the labor field, primarily economics-industrial relations and secondarily law). About a quarter of them practice law.

4. The typical arbitrator has practiced about 11 years. Only a handful have entered in the past 5 years. The majority began between 1942 and 1947.

5. Most arbitrators got into the work through government service, primarily with the War Labor Board. A fair number entered because the parties asked them to serve in a particular case.

6. Those reporting handled almost 4,000 cases in 1952, an average of 35.7 per arbitrator. If we assume a somewhat lower figure for those members who failed to report, say 25, the total number of 1952 cases handled by Academy members was in the neighborhood of 6,000. This suggests -- and here we must guess -- that the total volume of available work in 1952 may have been in the range of 8-10,000 cases. If there is substance to the estimate of 100,000 collective agreements, this suggests an average of 1/10 of one arbitration per agreement in 1952. The volume of work handled by Academy members is highly concentrated. Only 24 arbitrators did almost two-thirds of the work, while 29 did little or no work.

7. Slightly more than half of those reporting served in one or more umpireships, in which each averaged almost 28 cases.

8. Virtually everyone served in ad hoc work, averaging just over 20 cases per arbitrator. The total volume of ad hoc cases exceeded permanent in a proportion of 3 to 2.

9. The volume of contract cases is very small, only 145 being reported. About half of those reporting had one or more such arbitrations in 1952.

10. The number of grievance cases was much greater -- 2,764 -- and almost everyone did some.

11. Only 21% of the cases were presented to tripartite boards.

12. By contrast, 79% were handled by single arbitrators.

13. The total number of reported contracts with umpireships was 202. Another evidence of concentration appears in the fact that 11 members were named in half of them.

14. The overwhelming majority of arbitrators -- almost two-thirds -- were selected by the parties. The AAA, the railroad agencies, the FMCS, and the state boards followed in that order.

15. Only a small fraction of the arbitrators derived more than 50% of their income from arbitration work. Better than 4 out of 5 got most of their income from some other source.

16. A majority of the arbitrators earned less than \$5,000 in arbitration work in 1952. Only a handful earned over \$20,000.

17. A fee of \$100 a day in grievance cases appears to have been the "standard rate" in 1952.

18. The same fee prevailed in contract cases, although there were more arbitrators who charged a higher amount.

The results of the survey of arbitration are submitted by the Committee to the Board of Governors for such disposition as the Board sees fit. The following questions appear to the Chairman as matters upon which the Board should act:

1. Should the results of the survey be distributed to the membership of the Academy?
2. Should these results in whole or in part be released publicly?
3. Is there merit in making this kind of survey an annual affair?
4. If the answer to the last question is in the affirmative, does the Board have specific suggestions for improving the content and administration of the survey?

Respectfully submitted,



Irving Bernstein, Chairman
Committee on Research and Education

APPENDIX A

(figures in parentheses represent usable replies)

1. Age: average of reporting members is 49.7 years, 13 are under 40 and (112) 18 are 60 or more.

2. <u>Education:</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
(115)	Some college	5	4.3
	B.A. or B.S.	2	1.7
	M.A. or M.S.	4	3.5
	LL.B or J.D.	49	42.6
	Ph.D	41	35.7
	Other	<u>14</u>	<u>12.2</u>
		115	100.0
	S.J.D.	6	
	LL.M	3	
	D.D.	2	
	M.E.	1	
	B.A. / grad.	2	

3. <u>Other Profession:</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
(115) ^{1/}	Law	27	22.3
	Academic	71	58.7
	Law 18		
	Ind. rels.,		
	Ec., Bus. Ad. 44		
	Other 9		
	Consultant	8	6.6
	Other	7	5.8
	None	<u>8</u>	<u>6.6</u>
		121 ^{1/}	100.0

^{1/} Totals fail to tally due to duplication.

4. Number of Years Practiced Arbitration: Average arbitrator has practiced 11.2 years. Only 9 have been at it 5 or fewer years and only 12 for 20 or more years. Most respondents entered between 1942 and 1947.

5. <u>Method of Entering Arbitration Work:</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
(105)	Government Service	66	62.9
	WLB 42		
	State med. board 6		
	Other 18		
	Request by government	7	6.7
	AAA	9	8.6
	Request by parties	18	17.1
	Consultant, teaching, research	<u>5</u>	<u>4.8</u>
		105	100.1

14. Selecting Agencies in 1952 Cases:

	Number	Percent
(100)		
Parties	2,129	64.7
AAA	428	13.0
NMB and NRAB	362	11.0
FMCS	221	6.7
State agencies	133	4.0
Courts	8	0.3
Others	10	0.3
	3,291	100.0

15. Percent of 1952 Income from Arbitration:

	Number	Percent
(113)		
Over 50%	20	17.7
Under 50%	86	76.1
No income	7	6.2
	113	100.0

16. Arbitration Income Bracket, 1952: (111)

	Under 50% from Arbitration		Over 50% from Arbitration		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than \$1,000	21	23.1	--	--	21	18.9
\$1,000- 2,500	22	24.2	--	--	22	19.8
\$2,500- 5,000	15	16.5	--	--	15	13.5
\$5,000-10,000	13	14.3	7	35.0	20	18.0
\$10,000-20,000	10	11.0	6	30.0	16	14.4
over \$20,000	3	3.3	7	35.0	10	9.0
no income	7	7.7	--	--	7	6.3
Total	91	100.1	20	100.0	111	99.9

17. Fees Charged Per Day in Grievance Cases: (99)

	Fixed Fee		Range		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
\$ 50	8	10.0	\$ 50-100	1	5.3
75	10	12.5	75-100	8	42.1
100	53	66.3	100-125	3	15.8
125	4	5.0	100-150	4	21.1
150	5	6.3	125-150	1	5.3
			100-200	1	5.3
			100-500	1	5.3
Total	80	100.1		19	100.2

18. Fees Charged Per Day in Contract Cases: (82)

	Fixed Fee			Range	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
\$50	5	7.8	\$ 50 - 100	1	6.3
75	6	9.1	75 - 100	2	12.5
100	34	51.5	100 - 125	1	6.3
125	3	4.5	100 - 150	2	12.5
150	8	12.1	50 - 200	1	6.3
200	7	10.6	100 - 200	3	18.8
250	3	4.5	125 - 200	1	6.3
			150 - 200	3	18.8
			150 - 250	1	6.3
			100 - 500	1	6.3
Total	66	100.1		16	100.4