

from authorisation. An authorised life assurance company will automatically have this authorisation, but other methods of obtaining authorisation will be:

i) to approach the Secretary of State for authorisation to be in the investment business.

or

ii) to become a member of a self-regulatory organisation which enjoys exemption.

Mr. Weinberg expressed the opinion that self-regulation could be problematical and he went on to say that investment marketeers must be thoroughly competent and free from any accusations that they are in a conflict of interests situation.

So the idea behind these developments is, he explained, to produce a package which contains an acceptable blend of statutory control and self-regulation. Hitherto there had sometimes been a certain amount of abuse of statutory regulations.

In Mr. Weinberg's opinion a trade associations could not provide protection for the public, but a system of self-regulation should. Voluntary sanctions appear to have failed because of self-interest and the elimination of tied agencies and part-time salesmen is only a short-term solution to a long-term problem.

A. McCrindell

THE BILA CHARITABLE TRUST

As agreed at the 1984 AGM, the BILA Charitable Trust is on the point of establishment. Its main purpose will be the advancement of the public knowledge and understanding of law

and insurance including the inter-relation of insurance and law. The Trustees are empowered inter alia to provide research fellowships, prizes and awards, to provide for lectures or courses, to make grants to persons in necessitous circumstances for attendance at conferences or courses, to support publications and promote research.

These are all laudable objects but as the initial endowment will be only around £10,000 the Trust will clearly be limited in what it can achieve in its early years. The Honorary Secretary of BILA will be pleased to receive suggestions from members as to what might be done, bearing in mind that the income in the Trust's early years will be £1,500 at most. The following are preliminary thoughts on some of the possibilities.

Study Grants It might be possible to make grants towards the expenses of needy persons, whether members of the Association or not, to attend the World Congress of Insurance Law in Budapest in May 1986.

Prizes Prizes could be offered for the best students in insurance law either at CII examinations or in university courses such as the London LL.M which attracts quite a large entry.

Publications There is no shortage of publications on insurance law and related legal topics. They can usually be published on commercial terms but there is always the possibility that some meritorious work such as a university thesis on a specialised topic cannot find a publisher without subsidy. The Geneva Association, for example, recognises this in offering grants towards the publishing costs of books related to economics and insurance. Other possibilities include making an annual award for the best books or articles published during a period on insurance legal topics. Alternatively, money could be devoted to improving the BILA Bulletin and turning it into an authoritative journal. At the moment it is no more than a modest house magazine.

Research Research projects in law are few and far between. Subject to correction I am doubtful whether more could be stimulated by the small grants which is all that the Trust could offer.

Courses and Conferences Every few years BILA runs a successful seminar which is self-financing. It might be possible to develop more frequent courses or conferences. The Trust might provide a guarantee against loss or subsidise student fees. There are a number of bodies (for example, the College of Insurance or AIRMIC) with whom joint courses could be run.

Grants to Libraries Law publications are increasingly expensive. Many libraries of educational institutions cannot buy all the publications they would like. Grants would be a help.

Hugh Cockerell

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INTERNATIONAL TORT
INSURANCE LAW DELEGATION TO EUROPE

Meeting on 3rd April 1985 at the Offices of
Barlow, Lyde and Gilbert

Sir Denis Marshall welcomed everyone on behalf of BILA. He explained to the delegates that BILA was founded over 20 years ago and that the Association had at present over 300 members, both individual and corporate, with a common interest in insurance and its problems.

The day's programme commenced with a talk on contingency fees and legal aid given by Sir Denis Marshall. He illustrated how, in contrast to the American legal system, the English system prevented the legal profession from acting on a contingency fee