

come into force and would for most civil and commercial matters introduce the concept of domicile both for individuals and Companies as the basis of jurisdiction. Important special provisions applied to insurance contracts. It would also tend to promote a "free movement of judgments" about the EEC when enforcement was called for.

The meeting was closed by Sir Denis Marshall who thanked all the speakers on behalf of BILA. The leader of the People to People Tort Insurance Law Delegation, Mr. Douglas G. Houser, responded by congratulating all the speakers on their "interesting and informative speeches" and thanking the British Insurance Law Association for its "wonderful hospitality".

The major work of organising the meeting fell upon Colin Croly. Congratulations to him for his great contribution towards a most successful meeting. Thanks for his hard work.

A.D.

THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

1985 saw the American Bar Association (ABA) plan its fourth annual meeting for London (the others being held in 1924, 1957 and 1971). This was a two-centre meeting, the first half in Washington July 8/11 and the second here July 16/19. Well reported in the Press, less so in Lloyd's Log July 1985. BILA members can take their pick from 12,000 or 15,000 or 20,000 delegates and spouses and from £30m to £50m as total spending.

What follows is subjective for BILA and your reporter who had what now seems the real (but at the time doubtful) privilege of being the first non-US Chairman of an ABA Committee. This is the tip of the iceberg but anyone with 3 hours and £20 to spend at the Wig and Pen may learn what really sank the Titanic and, nearly, GWS.

One of the largest ABA components, the Tort and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) sent some 1,100 delegates. BILA's closest equivalent, the International Insurance Law Committee of TIPS, was substantially smaller, so liaised with three other committees for a major analysis of Insurance Regulation called 'The British Get Tighter. This mirrored a Washington session the previous week on the same subject but there called "The Rope Gets Tighter - Should the Noose be Cut?". Old BILA friends Spencer Kimball and Werner Pfennigstorf produced a major paper presented by Werner, Spencer flying off to Beijing instead. Alex Fletcher, M.P., the responsible Department of Trade minister, and Ian Hay Davidson also gave splendid papers, the latter outstanding.

Starting at 2.30 prompt, the Chair had to apply the closure at 5.00 with many questions to a panel widened to include Tom Muir the Under-Secretary heading the Insurance Division at the Department of Trade still outstanding.

The following morning Ken Carter of Sedgwicks gave a paper on Jumbo Risks and all but two of the breakfast places were taken. Both these sessions had some BILA and BACFI support but more BILA members - about a dozen - turned up at the Property Insurance Committee's session at the City Conference Centre where, following eight US speakers, Gordon Shaw introduced David Springbett who was his usual controversial self concerning ABA lawyers but gave some thoughtful ideas on leasing/factoring insurance premiums.

On, effectively, the last evening BILA and the CII co-hosted a reception at the Hall, 20 Aldermanbury. Bernard Day and Sir Denis Marshall welcomed the ABA delegates while Pat Saxton interested them greatly with his account of the Hall, its history and not least its gavel. The Association of British Insurers (ABI) gave a twin, smaller, reception at Aldermay House where Brian Corby, first Chairman of ABI, circulated among the guests. Since the Chairman, Chairman - Elect, Deputy

Chairman and Deputy Chairman-designate together with their charming American wives insisted on paying their respects at both events, onlookers observed that GWS in his role as mentor was even more yo-yo like than usual.

The ABA had a great time in London, said as much, have duly written their thank - you and BILA more than played its part in achieving that success.

Gordon Shaw

REINSURANCE LAW CONFERENCE

2/3 May 1985

Hilton Hotel, London

BILA was co-organiser together with Business Law Communications Ltd and the UIA of a two day conference held at the beginning of May. Over 200 delegates attended and heard a distinguished panel of speakers deal with some of the more recent developments in the field of reinsurance law.

The conference was chaired by Sir Denis Marshall, President of BILA, and the topics covered included a European view of recent developments in reinsurance law, the difficult area of avoidance of liability, professional liability of intermediaries, and arbitrations. The conference was privileged in having the Hon. Mr. Justice Leggatt chair a mock arbitration tribunal on the Friday afternoon.

The following are extracts from some of the papers presented and are taken from the May and June 1985 issues of "Insurance and Reinsurance Law International" which is published by Business Law Communications Ltd.