

THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES**Report of the Committee to Consider Proposals Relating
to the Limitation of Liability of Shipowners submitted
at the Fall Meeting of the Association, November 8, 1957**

Each member of the Association soon will receive a copy of the 1957 proposed Brussels Convention, the text of which also will appear in the forthcoming edition of A.M.C. Copies were circulated last month among the twelve members and nineteen advisory members of this Committee. After some preliminary exchange of views, twenty of us attended our meeting on November 6th. Mr. Houston and Mr. Seaver, who attended the diplomatic conference along with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the U. S. delegation, Mr. Clarence G. Morse, Maritime Administrator, and Mr. John W. Mann of the Department of State, reported the highlights of the conference and answered informally questions as to various clauses.

The Committee believes the proposed Convention requires careful study in the light of its history, etc., including the minutes of the Brussels conference, copies of which are expected shortly to be made available to Mr. Matteson.

It also is important that the study be completed with all reasonable speed for consideration by the entire membership of the Association in view of the possibility of the introduction or consideration in Congress of legislation affecting our present limitation of liability laws, and before it becomes necessary for the State Department to reach a decision with reference to the signature or submission of the Convention for ratification. The Committee further recommends that the President be authorized to communicate with the State Department and any other department concerned advising them of the pendency of this Association's study and action and expressing the hope that any decisions as to the signature or submission of the Convention or the introduction of legislation can be deferred until after this Association has had an opportunity to formulate and

express its views.

November 8, 1957

Respectfully submitted,

STANLEY R. WRIGHT, *Chairman*
HENRY N. LONGLEY, *Vice Chairman*
for the Committee

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The text of the proposed Convention is distributed herewith (Document No. 410). The Committee urges the members of the Association to study the proposed Convention and promptly submit their individual comments to the Chairman for the guidance of the Committee.