



Robert H. Winn, CFA Attorney

an Editorial

Since 1933, give or take a few years out for service in the U.S. Navy during war years, Mr. Robert H. Winn has been seated on the right side of each succeeding President of CFA, lending his moral as well as factual support. He has never missed a meeting, when it was a part of his duties to be there, since his first appointment as CFA Attorney, in the early years of the Association. The Chairman, presiding officer for Board and Annual meetings, could rely upon the knowledge and parliamentary experience of "Bob" Winn, whose sug-

gestions and forthrightness were always available. Many remember the times, when the going was less than smooth, Bob was able to save the day with a flash of his particular brand of literate, Welsh wit. Hydon, Shipe, Mable, Bruce, Bloem and Sample are the six Presidents of CFA who have availed themselves of his advice; those still with us readily agree that they took it more often than not.

Seldom does a CFA meeting get out of hand; much of this business-like procedure can be attributed to the understanding and unflinching interest shown by Mr. Winn in every facet of the organization. He takes a dim view of nonsequiturs, due no doubt, to his legal cast of mind; his experience with every kind of problem is legion. He has a finger on the pulse of every CFA operation; any situation large or small claims his notice and when requested, his help. It is as though the fledgling association he assisted thirty-three years ago has become the object of pride and joy in his mature years. Its needs, aspirations and proceedings are rarely out of his mind. Bob has the curiosity of the educated man, but it is a creative and constructive kind, for after ascertaining the facts he is ready to make them serve the uses of CFA. In many of his proposals he has been ahead of his time; he has foreseen the trends that could conceivably cause trouble, or methods that would offer immeasurable benefit to the efficiency of the organization. However, many of us, without the erudition and wisdom of our attorney, have not always been ready for certain innovations because they seemed "far-out" and were misunderstood. Most of his suggestions, it might be noted, that have been tried, have been proved to be sound and valuable; much of the financial gain and stability of CFA may be said to stem from ideas he contributed.

At one meeting he dropped a bombshell; "How can we obtain only ONE organization for the registering and showing of cats?" he asked. This would be a boon to the breeder he pointed out but it is up to the CFA breeder to bring it about by exhibiting in CFA shows only. This proposal met with a lot of discussion and emotional display. The premise of our attorney, however is that CFA is a business, big business as far as the Fancy goes, and must be so operated. While his suggestion, the establishment of one association, is not at this time a live issue, it may come to pass in the future, if breeders feel there are advantages to breeding under one standard, showing under one set of rules and paying for one cattery number and one set of cat registrations.

When some factions oppose accepting a certain club, Mr. Winn is fond of saying, "Are we a high school sorority or fraternity, which invites a chosen few for members or are we a business corporation which is able to accept, in an objective manner, all clubs whose papers are in order?" Perhaps this is one of Bob's major contributions to CFA: to seek to bring about attitudes of cooperation in the building of our association, rather than see us fall into emotionally-oriented situations that smack of croneyism and partisanship. Many of us have been upset and irritated with him from time to time, as we are wont to be with persons holding definite opinions and who act decisively, instead of finding a comfortable seat on the fence, but perhaps some of

our malaise is due to a nagging suspicion that, although he has attacked some of our prejudices, he is probably right.

His ready ire or wit may fall on friend or foe alike, but it is safe to say that Robert Winn is one of those rare people who is in truth, irreplaceable. The almost incredible growth of CFA is without doubt due in part to the continuity of our legal advisor in office, and to his deep abiding interest in the welfare of the association. One could look far and not find a person as versatile, knowledgeable or who has meant so many things to so many people. May his health and vigor last for many, many years and make possible the hope of his numerous friends that he will continue to assist CFA in meeting the greatest challenge of all, that attendant on its phenomenal growth. C.S.