

## New Group Formed

# Divorce Laws Studied

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Several Nevada legislators, judges, educators, psychologists and lawyers are looking for answers to such questions as:

Do the state's liberal marriage and divorce laws discourage new industry from coming to the state?

Do lawyers, wedding chapels, florists and others who profit from six-week divorces and five-minute marriages pay enough taxes to cover the state's legal and welfare costs rising from the liberal laws?

Have the laws made Nevada a haven for problem people from other states?

Do the laws contribute to growing mental-health problems among Nevadans?

Are members of the legal profession knowing parties to fraud and perjury in divorce mills?

Answers to these questions will be sought in the next few months by a group known as the "Association for the Study of Marriage and Divorce Laws Within Nevada." It was formed this week at the request of the Clark County Ministerial Association's executive board.

The ministerial association asked for the study in response to a proposal to cut the legal residence period from noncontested divorces from six months to one day.

This proposal came from Prince Hawkins, a Reno attorney who is chairman of the

State Bar Association's committee on economics. Hawkins said a majority of the 271 lawyers responding to a survey favor the one-day waiting period. The state has about 500 lawyers.

Rev. Patrick J. Toomey, pastor of St. Viator Roman Catholic Church, presented what he termed the thinking of the ministerial association's executive board.

One proposal calls for a self-study by the state. The ministers envision a research grant to finance a study of human problems in Nevada, much the same as a fiscal or water study.



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