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One-day Divorce Law Plan Reaction Varied

"I don't think we should just throw open the door and make Nevada a cash register divorce mill," Pete Echeverria, Reno attorney, said last night.

His comments came after news that William Ruymann of Las Vegas, long-time Nevada attorney, had asked that Nevada divorce laws be revived and recommendations for changes be made at the next meeting of the state legislature.

Ruymann Wednesday called for more liberal divorce laws in Nevada to conform with what he terms a U.S. Supreme Court ruling recognizing a 24-hour Mexican divorce.

Different Explanations

Various Reno attorneys have explained the Supreme Court action differently than Ruymann's interpretation.

The original case had involved a New York couple, the

attorneys said, one of whom had gone to Mexico to obtain a divorce, but who had had the consent of the spouse. The lat-

ALBANY (UPI) — Legislative leaders Wednesday introduced a bill which would grant a divorce decree for voluntary separation after 5 years and nullify the majority of future out-of-state divorces.

ter was represented by an attorney in Mexico, but later decided to contest the validity of the decree in New York.

The attorneys said that the New York court had made a decision recognizing the quickie Mexican divorce, but that the U.S. Supreme Court had actually refused to listen to any appeals in the matter.

This, they say, could be interpreted in two different ways: (1) That the Supreme Court felt the decision of the lower court was right, or (2) that it felt it had more important matters to settle than a "meager" divorce case.

Asks for Review

Ruymann asked for the review by the Board of Governors in a letter to Robert Herz, executive secretary of the Nevada State Bar.

"We should make jurisdictional requirements as equitable in Nevada as any other jurisdiction which the Supreme Court recognizes as legal," he said.

"I do not advocate one-day divorces. But if I had to choose, and if it were legal to obtain a one day divorce, I would rather have people spend one

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day in Nevada than one day in Mexico," he continued.

The current Nevada law requires a six-week residency before a decree is granted. The state at one time demanded a one year residency for divorce.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that Nevada divorces are legal and should be granted

"full faith and credit" in other states.

Echeverria said further, "I agree that the Board of Governors should review the divorce laws, but I wouldn't want them relaxed to the extent that he (Ruymann) does.

'Have Some Dignity'

"We should still have some dignity and stability in divorce

proceedings. It may be possible that we could relax the residency requirements a bid, or make changes to conform to more modern social advances and changes which have been made by other states. But I don't think we should just throw open the door and make this a cash register divorce mill," he concluded.

One prominent Reno divorce attorney, who asked to remain anonymous, said, "Something can be said for both sides. I don't like to have Nevada trying to out-compete other states. It's not good for motels, for instance having people in one day and out the next. But from the standpoint of more liberal divorce laws—it would throw Nevada into a worse light than it is now."

"Nevada already has a bad reputation," said Sam Franco-vich, a member of the Board of Governors, "although it's just as easy to get a divorce in several other states.

"We have to live with our sister states," he continued. "We can't make our laws to attract this type of 'tourists.' We don't have to prostitute ourselves in this way. I would be opposed to any more liberalities in our laws."

In conclusion, Ruymann said, "I advocate a realistic law that is approved by the Supreme Court. Good taste or bad taste is what the Supreme Court says it is. We should be as liberal (in Nevada) as their interpretation of the law."