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NO. 2

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

(Address by Earl W. Kintner, General Counsel,
Federal Trade Commission before First Annual
Convention, National Association of Blueprint
and Printing Contractors, Washington, D. C., May 27, 1954)

group.*

As a new trade association you will want to know what is expected
of you, what you can accomplish, and how to determine if there is a
need for a trade association.

trespass, were brought to this court. One interesting legal privilege of a gildsman was the right to claim a share in any bargain that he saw a brother gildsman making.^{3/} I doubt that this would be a popular by-law in your own brotherhood of blueprinters.

Trade associations more closely akin to those we know today began to be formed in England around the middle of the 18th Century. In America, trade associations appeared as early as 1768, just eight years before the British Association of Trade Restrictionists published the first edition

As members of a trade association, you will be vitally concerned
with two Federal statutes: the Sherman Act and the Federal Trade Commission

Commission Act Under the Sherman Act - Restraints on Trade

in restraint of trade* is unlawful. The Federal Trade Commission Act

in restraint of trade, the law enforcement agencies are faced with a serious problem of enforcement. The situation may result from natural economic

b. Closely related to price-reporting is the collection of other data on costs, production, markets, and similar statistics. Such information may be exchanged lawfully under certain circumstances. It is advisable to have the information widely distributed and easily available to all interested persons on reasonable conditions. No statistics

decide to act upon the information supplied, i.e. to increase or decrease production, change procedures, etc. such action would be lawful as long as it was apparent that there was no concert of action among various companies. One case held that the distribution of uniform freight rate

violating the antitrust laws? There was a time, not too long ago, when his attorney would advise him to resign from the trade association and to stay