

## INTERPRETING LAW AND **LEGISLATION**

Imagine a physician trying to keep up with every recent court decision related to health, medicine or physicians. Or imagine him finding time in his busy practice to analyze every piece of pending national or state

legislation to see if it would affect his patients or medical practice. Sound impossible? It is. Yet America's physicians are extremely well informed on medicolegal matters because of the continuing efforts of AMA.

Every bill in Congress that affects health or medicine is analyzed, and pertinent information is distributed to medical societies. There were 1,600 such bills in the 89th Congress and 1,435 in the 90th.

Hundreds of state bills also are analyzed and indexed, providing a valuable source of help for state society legislative committees considering bills for physician support.

Every week a report on Law and Medicine appears in the Journal of the AMA. More than 80 of the articles that appeared between January, 1966, and February, 1968, were combined in one publication in 1968. Material on legal problems involving medicine or physicians also is published in *The AMA News*.

The Citation, distributed every other week, summarizes individual court decisions involving physicians or medicine. It is the only publica-tion of its type in the country.

In addition, more than 200 printed medicolegal items are available from AMA, including model forms, acts and agreements. AMA compiles in-formation on taxes, corporate practice, professional liability, ethics, blood transfusions and blood grouping, hospital records and other subjects pertaining to law and medicine.

AMA also oversees the maintenance of medical ethics. It keeps extensive files on health quacks and helps collect evidence for their

prosecution.