

Washington Law Review

Volume 21 | Issue 3

7-1-1946

Welcome to Lawyer Veterans

Tracy E. Griffin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/wlr>

Recommended Citation

Tracy E. Griffin, Address, *Welcome to Lawyer Veterans*, 21 Wash. L. Rev. & St. B.J. 181 (1946).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/wlr/vol21/iss3/6>

This Address is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Reviews and Journals at UW Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Washington Law Review by an authorized editor of UW Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact cnyberg@uw.edu.

STATE BAR JOURNAL

Published Quarterly by Washington State Bar Association

EXECUTIVE OFFICES 655 DEXTER HORTON BUILDING
SEATTLE 4, WASHINGTON

OFFICERS OF STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

F D METZGER	-- -- -- --	<i>President</i>
FORD Q ELVIDGE	-- -- -- --	<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>
S H KELLERAN		<i>Counsel</i>
CLYDENE L MORRIS		<i>Executive Secretary</i>

Board of Governors

FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	.....	Ford Q Elvidge
SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	.....	R V Welts
THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	.....	Thos L O'Leary
FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	.....	F. A. Kern
FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	.....	Del Cary Smith, Jr
SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	.....	Cyrus Happy

Editorial Board

WILLIAM J MADDEN, *Editor*

DONALD E DIRSTINE, THOMAS I OAKSHOTT, LANE MORTHLAND,
GLADYS W PHILLIPS, DEAN W MULLIN, W F FISHER,
H C BRODIE, *Associates*

EDITORIAL NOTE

There follows below an address given by Mr Tracy E Griffin at the Bar Convention in September to the returning veterans. Your editorial board is completely oblivious to any reference to events or places which you think may have been intended by the author of this talk. Further news, lists of committees and a complete report of the convention will be printed in the next issue.

WELCOME TO LAWYER VETERANS

The condition of the Republic is, of course, little changed since you departed, either for the global battle fronts abroad or the bottle-necks in Washington, D C

My remarks will be limited or unlimited to "that little difference"

We, as you know, are a peace-loving people—never warlike—as are all our neighbors, friends, allies and enemies—in fact, we have no enemies—just one big happy family

I

The veteran of the American Revolution—1776, not 1932—returned to set in operation a new concept of government—and to set off the "Whiskey Rebellion"

You return, having fought to establish that concept world-wide—how well you succeeded the headlines tell—you return with the privilege of trying again to revitalize that concept in operation here—you return not to a "Whiskey Rebellion" but a shortage of Scotch

II

The veteran of the War of 1812 returned to find the national debt at the staggering total of \$127,000,000—and Great Britain flooding the American market with goods. So we had a protective tariff on “goods.”

You return to find the national debt slightly increased—but only by a few additional zeros—and in arithmetic “zero” is nothing—and while a tariff on “goods” is a dead issue, we do have security from birth to our final abolition.

III

The veteran of the War with Mexico returned to find slavery a sweet issue of evil portent. You return to find the colored problem of the South moved to the North, a portion of that movement for political ends.

IV

The veteran of the Civil War returned to find “carpet baggers” in control and the Ku Klux Klan out of control.

You return to find the fiery cross again lighted and “carpet baggers” only a small part of the loom.

V

The veteran of the various Indian wars returned to find the conquered lands ripe for homesteading and the plow.

You return to find the same lands conquered by the federal government via condemnation—and state’s rights only the privilege of asking the federal government for a monetary hand-out which your children and grandchildren will have to repay.

VI

The veteran of the War with Spain returned to find the economic royalist getting in the saddle and riding high.

You return to find them getting out of the saddle and hanging high.

VII

The veteran of the War with Aguinaldo returned to find that we did it for the good of the Philippines and to insure peace in the Orient—with never a shortage of sugar.

You return finding fighting still going on in the Philippines—peace, of course, in the Orient—and sugar if you can find it.

VIII

The veteran of World War I, having made the world safe for democracy, returned to find the “noble experiment” in bootleg operation.

You return and find organized agitation to try it again and black markets galore.

IX

We are really a peace-loving people. My teacher told me so—1776-1946—170 years. A man of 80 today, whose father lived to 80, and whose grandfather was a lad when Washington crossed the Delaware—3 generations.

Peace-loving after World War I we failed to embrace the League of Nations, but scrapped our navy.

Peace-loving after World War II we evolve the U N UNited Nations—and talk of scrapping the atomic bomb.

But you veterans—lawyers—return to your own homes and firesides in the land of the free and the home of the Waves, Wacs and Woofs.

That is if you can find a home, or house

But you may desire to build one—If you can read and write and have the time to fill out all the forms, you may obtain a “permit”

Then all you require is the material and labor The latter is unobtainable because you already are paying unemployment compensation, and the material is not available because while you were gone we “planned” it that way

Anyway you do have a hunting license—but don’t shoot your own cow That requires another “permit”

Formerly when a friend said he was in the “dog house” it meant he was in disgrace at home—now if he says he is in the dog house he isn’t exaggerating—he’s bragging His family is happy to be there with him

You left with Tammany rampant in the White House Thank Missouri that is changed Pendergrast can give Tammany cards and spades and still take every trick

We did have one great loss at the Capitol while you were away—irreplaceable and dreadful A true friend of Alaska and the great Northwest is gone He loved the common man! He admitted he could solve any and every problem He claimed he solved them Harold Ickes finally resigned

You left with only 56 per cent of all the old Supreme Court’s precedents overruled

You return with 99.5 per cent overridden The one-half per cent still solidly standing is free speech of the outmoded Bill of Rights “Picketing” is now an exercise of the right of “free speech” That is, “picketing” by a recognized labor union—recognized, that is, by Mr Wagner

You left with the number of federal employees increasing daily

You return and one year after V-J day the progression is multiplying—both by birth and appointment

You left and the State of Washington was the owner of most of its square miles and with other miles square on the tax rolls

You return and find the federal government is taking over—is still condemning and removing one-half the lands of the state from the tax rolls

You left and we were enjoying the fruits of L L—lease lend Immediately after V-J Day, lease lend was eliminated We now enjoy the fruits of “G G”—give, grant

You left and wondered about our “foreign policy”—if we had one

You may continue to wonder about Casa Blanca, Yalta, Teheran, Potsdam But we do now have an enlightened foreign policy It is called “C O P”—COP—“Cooling Off Policy”

Having backed Mihaelovich—he who saved so many of our lost flyers—with words and promises, we eventually backed our good friend Tito with guns and planes

Tito became slightly obstreperous—merrily shot down a plane or two—killed a few of our boys—so on August 8, UNRA sends out a “must” directive—Ship immediately refrigerating units to Jugoslavia

Our cooling off policy in function—perfecto

UNRA, by the way, is the noble agency, foreign controlled, 70 per cent of all supplies and money from the United States—that believes if we do not feed and supply the world, then there will be no soldiers with

sufficient arms in the immediate future to endanger our own security
And we cannot have another good war unless we build up all potential
enemies so that we can fight

Tito was number one on UNRA's list of supplies Through UNRA
he had a full stomach when he shot Mihaelovich

China is number two with UNRA That is why there is no civil war
in China

However, if we can maintain a shortage of food and material for the
people at home we can possibly reach the equality of par with the
communists

Having just returned from northern British Columbia I am pleased
to report that our neighbors are building a broad highway through Prince
Rupert to connect with a proposed Great Alaskan Highway It is to be
assumed that Stalin will be mollified to know that his infantry will have
solid footing for careful shooting

We have a different foreign policy for Latin and South America
Overseas we assert that every election shall be held without interference
from any other country—except Britain and ourselves

We politely interfered in the last election in Argentina and succeeded
in electing a new president there, however not the one our state depart-
ment supported

When you left we were talking in millions and you thought your taxes
were high

Governmentally to speak in "millions" today would make one unfit for
public office, even an elective office

You return and you will be delighted at the reduction in taxes—You
will enjoy "subsidies" so much the more

When you left some saps were poking fun at the alphabetical bureaus

Most of those saps have ceased to laugh—at the request of the Internal
Revenue Bureau, the O P A , the C P A , the X Y Z and the E T C
—and the sole output of the furniture plants is making bigger, if not
better bureaus

You left expecting on your return to be able to look in a book and
find a controlling statute

Your return and your work has been simplified

The only portion of the Constitution that remains is the unmentioned
'War Powers' of the President and the "General Welfare" clause
You will find that the general welfare clause always refers to either a
labor union or to the "general" of some governmental agency—and
not to you, now a private, or to your client who has, and is, entitled
to no privacy

Executive "Directives" are now the substitute for legislative acts, and
it is perfectly safe to advise your client that he is "guilty" on any com-
plaint made What he was doing today in Spokane at 12:00 o'clock
noon, whatever it was, was manifestly illegal, and subject to a ten-
thousand-dollar fine and ten years in jail, because undoubtedly a
directive was published effective at high noon yesterday in the Federal
Register Lack of knowledge, or the fact you won't see the Register
for a week, and neither will the local bureaucrats have a copy for some
days, do not make the slightest difference

Beyond that, notwithstanding what the language of the directive may
say in plain "English"—and there is a standing \$64 00 award for one
in plain English—the inter-office interpretation, though post-dated after

the date of the "crime," governs and not what the directive says

Now that the O P A has been validated in the State of Washington—with apparently a majority of the court believing the act unconstitutional, you will find it unnecessary to have a library, codes, statutes, opinions, or even advance sheets

All you require is a loose-leaf service and the looser the better

Having by your sweat and your blood and your tears brought forth upon our world the joys of a lasting and enduring peace, a decent friendship between the peoples, and a permanent good fellowship between "leaders"—you will really enjoy your return to the practice of law

We all start as equals You who were away and we who remained

Each morning we start with new directives, controls and alternating de-controls

Today all men are equal before the law—before the law What comes after the law is a horse of a different odor.

Speaking of "horses," this is an election year The golden promises of security absolute, sans taxes, increase in wages, shorter hours, will be as familiar to you this fall as the fall you took

The Democrats were in the majority when you left The Republicans, it is said, were meeting in telephone booths I don't know where they are meeting now, assuming any are left, or right Certainly they are not meeting in telephone booths That at least has been changed Telephone booths are now two-family abodes, with rentals fixed by the O P A

Fellow travelers are still riding the donkery, but if, as and when the elephant shall trumpet, you will find them lodged on its trunk

Seriously, as lawyers trained to think, as soldiers trained to act, as veterans, you return with the opportunity of the pioneer

In 1932 it was claimed that we had enveloped our last frontier

As lawyers, we have not yet been socialized The first step is in medicine It is on the way

Perhaps, as never before since 1776, in our land and time you return with opportunity knocking at the door

In whatever direction you cast your glance there is pioneering work to be done—done all over again

The frontier of vision, judgment—of just plain ordinary horse sense lies all about us

Frontiers, broken and shattered, awaiting the pioneer to plant and sow and reap; to cut and saw and build, to restore and replenish the land that is fast eroding out from under the feet of a great people, and upon which was built a magnificent concept of government

The frontier of the mind will ever remain a challenge to a free people—if they truly want to be free

If we are to remain free—if those in government are to remain our servants—if we are to have a government by law and not a government by men—if we are not to be made automatons of government—we must here and now put an end to the sadistic squandering of our heritage, the pollution of our rivers of thought, the blasting of our mountains of faith

The time is now Tomorrow may be "Too little and too late"

Veterans, lawyers, you return to your land and mine

You are welcome; thrice welcome

But there is work to be done