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## Address of Welcome to the American Bar Association

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ganized Bar now face challenges of greater significance than at any time in the whole history of the country. Lawyers cannot adequately meet these challenges without working together in and through organized bar associations, local as well as national.

Many countries, including Russia, have adopted constitutions which appear to be somewhat similar to our own, but their citizens do not enjoy similar protection as to life, liberty, and property because, in the first place, they do not have an independent judiciary, and in the second place, they do not possess a courageous Bar with sufficient independence to assert and establish these rights. The members of our Bar have been trained for generations in a tradition of courage and in a spirit of loyalty to the constant defense of our constitutional guaranties of individual liberty. If the time should ever come when the living reality of this tradition and spirit fades out and members of the Bar become merely servants of government policy, our basic rights and liberties will vanish.

Address of Welcome to the American Bar Association,  
by Richard S. Munter

On behalf of the Bar of the state of Washington, I welcome you to this, the Seventy-first Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association.

This may be an historic session of this Association. Throughout almost all the world the rule of law has given way to the rule of wilful men. In our country we can not much longer go on straddling such issue. There can be no certain justice except that based on rule of law. Decision based not on law represents but the will of the despot or the bid of the dictator to be. Nor can largesse be accepted from the dictator, for what he gives to one must be taken away from another.

More crystal clear than even our beautiful mountain lakes is the lesson of the ages, that power unrestrained by law can be given no mortal; and that is literally true, no matter however benevolent he may conceive himself to be. It is a sad commentary on our enlightened times that our public men have been so lacking in humility, so selfish and so regardless of their relative pigmy status as to seek for, grasp, and attempt to wield power unrestrained by law. But it is an equally sad reflection upon the people of our nation that for what they conceived to be passing gain and special favor they have yielded to such

self seekers, and already permitted our constitutional government to be all but destroyed, as well as our economy

To a group of lawyers what has transpired and is transpiring can no longer be deemed debatable. Government by law must be restored, constitutional right and constitutional limitation must be re-established. We shall hope that out of this great convention much will come toward that desired end.

We, your host, shall attempt to make up in hospitality what we lack by way of physical and recreational attractions and climate.

We cannot offer you yachting and fishing on such a gorgeous body of water as Long Island Sound, instead only yachting and fishing on salmon-infested Puget Sound.

To those of you who come from parts of the country where your rivers wander beautifully, slowly, and sluggishly on, we must apologize for you will see no rivers hereabouts such as those; instead only mountain streams tumbling and battling their ways to the sea over precipices and through deep canyons in areas timbered with the immense Douglas fir, their banks strewn with luxuriant foliage. And should you wish to fish in such streams, we cannot offer you the gamey catfish or carp, just the native mountain trout.

We cannot match the majestic beauty of the Green Mountains, the White Mountains, and Mount Washington for those of you from New England; humbly instead we can only offer you the sight, the Gods willing, of our local hills, the Olympics, the Cascades, and Rainier.

To those of you from California, where you are blessed with the eternal sun which bakes your lands and absorbs your rivers, we must apologize for our unattractive lands covered with crops and unsightly rivers, each bank full with water.

We realize the honor those of you from the South, East, and Middle West are paying us in coming out here to this meeting, knowing that you must forego the delightfully warm nights of this season in your native haunts and in lieu thereof put up with the cool, almost cold, nights in these parts.

We are sincerely happy to have you as our guests and trust that your stay with us will be enjoyable as well as profitable. Should you like us and our country, come visit us again.