

Washington Law Review

Volume 25
Number 4 *Annual Meeting of the Washington
State Bar Association*

11-1-1950

Address of Welcome; Response to Address of Welcome

Arthur A. Lundin

John Gavin

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

Recommended Citation

Arthur A. Lundin & John Gavin, *Address, Address of Welcome; Response to Address of Welcome*, 25 Wash. L. Rev. & St. B.J. 316 (1950).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/wlr/vol25/iss4/2>

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 lawref@uw.edu.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME
BY ARTHUR A. LUNDIN

President Nichoson, Father Linden, Miss Morris, Fellow Members of the Association. As early as 1924, President Chadwick of our Association, after listening to a welcoming address by Mr. Ben Kizer, of our local association, and the response thereto, made the cogent remark that in his opinion the welcome and the response ought to either be abolished or given over to the minds of more mature men. In his opinion the address of welcome should consist simply of a few nice words of welcome, extending the keys to the city, and the response should agree with everything that had been said.

Now that pretty well covers the requirements of this situation so far as I have been able to determine in the books. It only fails to care for one predicament in which the host organization finds itself—wherein the Board of Governors, having the delegated duty of selecting a convention city, serves notice on the Bar of the county concerned that it expects an invitation to be forthcoming, and there being no court of appeal, the host organization resigns itself to carrying out the duties of host—such duties as the Governors permit it to do. Then the host president of the organization is notified of the time and place to give a welcome talk.

Nevertheless, and in spite of all of this, the Bench and Bar of Spokane County are proud and pleased to welcome you members of the Washington State Bar Association to our family for this brief period of learning, fellowship, and fun. I have often heard it said that judges and lawyers like to come to Spokane. Perhaps if this is so the reason is we like to have you here.

In my brief experience with our bar since the war, I have found that the Spokane Bar has a tremendous respect and interest in the ties, the *esprit*, which the law deepens among her followers, and we like to renew those ties among our distinguished brethren from the north, the south, and the west.

This bids fair, as I understand it, to be one of the biggest conventions we have yet had. I think much of the credit goes to the officers of our Association who have planned such a stimulating agenda of institutes and speakers, and, on the lighter side, tomorrow night we are going to have a party for the members of the Association at which we members of the Spokane Bar want to see every member present.

Now we shall feel complimented if during your time with us you

feel one with us, and if there is anything we can do to make your stay more pleasant, do let us know

The Spokane County Bar Association gives you its heartiest welcome as men and women assembled to the Eighteenth Annual Convention of the Washington Integrated Bar. We are confident that each one of us is going to take from this Convention a greater skill in our craft, as well as the pleasure of renewing friendships, and I trust a greater capacity for applying our intelligence to the problems that beset our democracy in these crucial times.

Thank you.

RESPONSE TO ADDRESS OF WELCOME

BY JOHN GAVIN, Yakima

Your Excellency, Governor Langlie, President Nicholson, President Lundin, Miss Morris, Father Linden, Honorable Guests, and Fellow Members of the Washington State Bar Association. Ever since I was designated to make this response by processes of elimination, you would be surprised to learn that I have also—as obviously Mr. Lundin has—made a considerable research into the subject of addresses of welcome and responses thereto, and I am forced to agree with him that both of these types of speeches are rather useless, and have been so characterized in the past by this Association. I find that upon examining compilations of the world's greatest speeches and feats of oratory no address of welcome or response has ever been listed therein. And I might say—I don't want to do injustice to Mr. Lundin—but I am quite certain none will be listed therein following this meeting today I find—which is even more shattering to both Mr. Lundin and myself—that neither the address of welcome nor the response is even listed under the category of speeches in these compilations.

But I do find this: I find there are two general methods of approaching the response to the address of welcome. One calls for the speaker to rise and acknowledge the generous invitation of the host; to then launch forth into a detailed outline of the problems this Convention is going to face, and designate vital spots in which you will be confronted with them in your deliberations, and recommend broad general policies and decisions you should reach.

The other method of approach is for the speaker to rise, accept the invitation, shut up, and sit down. (I know you will be pleased to learn

that is the method I am not only going to follow but have been told to follow by the Convention Committee.)

I will say, Mr. Lundin—members of the Spokane County Bar Association—we welcome the opportunity to be back here in convention again. I think I can say without fear of contradiction that every past convention in this beautiful city has been a memorable and very pleasant occasion. I have no doubt this one will be even more memorable and more pleasant than those prior ones. If you do not learn much, you will at least be exposed to learning. It gives every indication that the Convention program itself—the business of the Association—is going to be of considerable interest to you, and that the social affairs arranged by our hosts are going to be up to the same splendid plane they were in the past.

So, Mr. Lundin, whatever signal it is you give as the hosts here, I think you can give it for the officers to start battling governors and for speakers to warm up. I think the kitchen should be alerted to have glasses polished in sufficient number and be made available for use.

We are here, ready to proceed, and glad to be here, and we hope we can comport ourselves so that we will be invited back here again some day

GREETINGS FROM GOVERNOR ARTHUR B. LANGLIE

President Nicholson, Officers, and Members of the State Bar and Bench. I always enjoy fellowship with my fellow members of the Bar and am particularly happy to be here with you today. I know that many of you are here to talk shop, and perhaps the things I would like to discuss with you today may seem to some of you a little off the beaten path for which you traveled over here, but I cannot overlook the opportunity, as Governor, to talk with men and women that I feel must exercise a tremendous influence upon the people of our state, and in these times that influence is particularly important.

I have had the unique privilege of being a politician and for a time a practicing member of the Bar. I have had the chance to look at both sides of the fence. It is my personal feeling that a lawyer has a big obligation and responsibility in the field of political science, and I know of no art that has been neglected as much in this country of ours for many years as that particular responsibility.

As we complain of the conditions we find in government today—no matter at what level—I think we can attribute most of them to a