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Address by Arthur B. Langlie, Governor of the State of Washington

Arthur B. Langlie

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informing the public of the role of law and lawyers in their lives and at correcting false characterizations of lawyers in entertainment media, were made by Mr. Wright, Charles Scanlon of Spokane, and Warren Dewar of Seattle. An address delivered by Judge Ward Roney of Seattle as a part of the discussion is printed herein.

It should be noted that all the addresses set out hereinafter apparently were delivered extempore. An unfelicitous printer's deadline did not permit the submission of transcripts to the speakers for correction, and for any stenographic or editorial errors which may exist in the printed versions, apologies are earnestly tendered. It is believed and hoped, however, that if there are any resulting deficiencies from a literary point of view, they are more than compensated for by the vigor and frankness of an undiluted extempore presentation and its element of communion with the audience.

DANIEL C. BLOM, *Editor*
Washington State Bar Journal

ADDRESS BY ARTHUR B. LANGLE
Governor of the State of Washington

It is a privilege again for me to be with you for a few minutes this afternoon and extend greetings to you on your annual meeting.

I always enjoy coming here, because it brings me back to the delightful days when I had a chance to associate with you more intimately. I am glad to be here today to express my thanks to the Bar Association of this State for the excellent cooperation that I have had, while serving as your Governor, in the matter of filling vacancies in our Judicial positions. While there were some contests in that area, at the present time, in the main, the people have expressed extreme confidence in your recommendations and there has been little opposition of many of the posts that have been filled. I feel that with your help the Bench has been strengthened and that we can continue to improve our administration of justice and our techniques in the judicial end of our businesses to the extent that the people of the State will benefit.

Every year as we come to an election, or every four years, it seems that the issues become more important for citizens to understand, in order that we may resolve some of these major questions on a factual basis.

The new techniques that are developing in communications make it easier in one way to get the facts to the people; easier in another

way to further confuse them if we are not careful about evaluating the information that is placed before us.

It has always been my feeling that every member of a Bar Association anywhere in our country has a higher responsibility in this field of citizenship than any other citizen: primarily, because of his background, his education and his knowledge of the institutions of government of which every lawyer is a very important part, because the time is becoming more serious, because the problems of government are becoming more involved, because representative government is more and more threatened in our inability to make the kind of decisions at election time that are not controlled more by what we are going to get out of government than by the principles under which we should administer justice and equality of opportunity.

We have been working along one line in the State ever since we had three sessions of the legislature in a period of about five or six months. We have been aware of the fact that the people have little opportunity to fully understand the factual information about their State Government, and since those three sessions, we have been undertaking to do something about it.

For just a few minutes this afternoon I'd like to invite your attention to a report that has been put out by the Budget Director of our State Government. I am hopeful that every lawyer will take that report and read it. If you cannot readily get a copy in the community where you are, if you will write to the Budget Director in my office, we will send you what is called "Your Dollar's Worth of State Government." The whole purpose of this booklet is to make crystal clear where the money that's collected from the taxpayers comes from, where it is spent and what services are purchased. It compares our costs in many areas; our income in many areas. It compares the total tax responsibility of our State with those of other western states particularly and with the national average.

So that you won't take this book lightly, I am going to call your attention to some comments that were made after this book was reviewed by several national organizations, because I think it is important, if we are going to make decisions at election time that are right, that they be based on facts.

Every lawyer knows that many times you are forced to present a case without too much factual information, and you will hope that the opposition does not have too many witnesses who can present the whole truth.

The fact of the matter is, that in this business of government, many presentations are being made daily over radio, television, through the newspapers, and by personal contact. Presentations of evidence of a sort of why certain individuals should be placed in certain places, of what they are going to do and how they are going to do it. That evidence should be evaluated, just as the evidence in a court of law must needs be evaluated, cross-examined and checked into. Our problem is one of doing that more intensively in America, rather than being motivated by our particular prejudices.

This is a factual report on all branches of State government, all elective officials. It is not as involved in detail as perhaps some would like to have it, because we wanted to make it readable for the average citizen, but I think if you will take it, you will be pleased with the information that is available, and, I think, helped as far as the facts about State government.

The facts that are in this volume, so that there could be uniformity of reports between our State and other states, were taken largely from the United States Bureau of the Census figures that are compiled annually and give us a basis for comparison. In sending our report to them for review prior to its issuance, we received this letter back.

Your study entitled "Your Dollar's Worth of State Government" is one of the most outstanding examples we have ever seen of effective, historical and interstate analysis of government finance data.

I surely hope that the volume that you have issued will have an audience even beyond the boundaries of the State, as a challenge and inspiration to budget and research people elsewhere, who are concerned with similar technical and financial problems.

May I congratulate you again without reservation on an outstanding job, not only in meeting your goal of providing an understandable and comprehensive financial study to the people of Washington, but also in setting high standards for such presentations elsewhere.

The Council of State Governments reviewed this book. They said:

We are very much impressed with your report entitled "Your Dollar's Worth of State Government." It is probably the most effective presentation of state finances that we have seen, both from the viewpoint of popular interest and accuracy.

It carefully avoids the trap of over-simplification, and at the same time is a fascinating document to read.

The minutes of a finance officers association read as follows:

A few states, such as Michigan, Maine and New York have had progressive reports. We believe the Washington report to be the best public report

we have seen. Perhaps it will serve as a stimulus to public reporting by other states.

The National Tax Journal of the National Tax Association wrote this:

Finally let me add my compliments to those of Mr. Manville. I have read a number of studies in this area, but none as well done as yours. I have heard from many governors of other states, who want to accept this as a general pattern for statewide reports.

I point this out to you primarily to attract your interest in this report. If we are going to meet the problems of state government, and face them honestly and get away from deficit financing, avoid expenditures in those areas where the public generally feels we are spending too much, and put their money into the areas where they feel that it will return the greatest dividends for their dollars, it is absolutely necessary that the people have more than just a passing knowledge of their state government and the taxes that are paid.

It is of interest to take a look at some of the charts in this book, and find out which level of government takes the most of your income dollars.

It is interesting to note that thirty-five cents out of every dollar that is earned by people in this State today goes to pay taxes, but of that amount the Federal Government is taking approximately twenty-seven cents, and the balance goes to support your State and local government, and that actually the percent of dollars that are taken for State Government today out of the income of the people, is just the same as it was back in 1932.

Now, when we realize those things, we have a little better appreciation of some of the problems that we are resolving. We can analyze the statements that we politicians make over the radio and television and determine more correctly whether those statements are fabrications, whether they are truth or half-truths. The net result is that we can make our decisions in the interest of the business of our State on a much more highly intelligent basis.

I don't want to take a lot of your time. I came only to greet you, and to tell you that I am appreciative of what the Bar Association has done to help the State Administration in its processes of selecting vacancies for our Bench, and in other services that you have been willing to cooperate on.

I believe, as I have said before, your responsibilities in this area of

government are much more than we as lawyers frequently are willing to assume, but the times are dangerous. They call for careful, honest judgment by leaders, who are able to influence others; not because of what some individuals might think that they can get out of their government, but to preserve representative and free government, by being willing to give the kind of selfless leadership that will make these institutions serve, and make it possible to perpetuate them.

ADDRESS BY JUDGE LOUIS F. BUNGE

President of the Superior Court Judges' Association

Mr. Smith tells you that it has been a regular custom to invite the President Judge of the Judges' Association to address you, and I am very frank to say I hadn't learned of this until the night before I started on my trip over here, when I had a letter from Miss Morris advising me that I was to speak. I have no indication of what I shall speak of. So, I am just blazing my own trail.

May I welcome you on behalf of the Superior Court Judges' Association and all of its members. May I say to you that you are extremely fortunate to meet in the city of Tacoma.

In 1938 the Governor of this State ordered me to Tacoma for two weeks. I sat here at that time in the Presiding Department and I think that, in all of my judicial experience, was one of the most delightful. The lawyers and the Bar were very kind to me. They showed me every courtesy and I will always remember until my dying day, the wonderful time that I had here and it was sad this morning when for the first time since 1938, I returned here and there wasn't one, not one, of those old judges left. Remann, Hodge, Card. They have all passed to the Great Beyond.

I wonder as you meet here today whether you have given any thought to the fact that this is the hundred and sixtieth anniversary of the granting of the Bill of Rights; that at this time, you are not only privileged to meet here in a very instructive convention. I have examined your program and I think it is wonderful, directed to all of the different questions that were before you. It seems to me that every lawyer should go home with very much additional knowledge to aid him in his practice.

Have you stopped to think, my friends, of the glory that's yours of being just a plain American citizen, of all of the economic privileges