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Address by Judge Hobart Dawson, President of the Superior Court Judges' Association

Hobart Dawson

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in spite of honest differences of opinion, the members of the two professions should leave to the judgment of history the wisdom of conflicting political decisions, and devote their efforts to working for a common, unified peace. In closing, Mr. Norris noted that the statue of Abraham Lincoln was the only monument to a "foreigner" to have been placed among the memorials to distinguished leaders of the Commonwealth in Parliament Square in London. Mr. Norris quoted from the Gettysburg address, "... that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Mrs. Alice O'Leary Ralls, executive secretary of the Washington State Bar Association, read the names of members of the association deceased since the last annual meeting. The memorial address was given by Elias A. Wright of Seattle, chairman of the Committee on Memorials.

Mr. Wright gave an inspiring discourse on "The Courage of the Bar." Using great jurists, lawyers, and defenders of public rights as examples, Mr. Wright declared that the "Courage of the Bar" was manifested by the highest possible devotion to the rules of ethics and fervent and fearless protection of individual rights. Lawyers with the "Courage of the Bar" do not hesitate to defend the rights of individuals even though such action subjects them to adverse criticism by their fellow lawyers, to public scorn, or to death. In closing, Mr. Wright foresaw that when such men passed into everlasting peace they carried high the banner, "This Man Had the Courage of the Bar."

ADDRESS BY JUDGE HOBART DAWSON

President of the Superior Court Judges' Association

It is my privilege and pleasure as President Judge of the Superior Court Judges' Association to bring to you at this time our warm greetings and wishes for a very successful convention, and to extend to you the invitation that our welcome mat is out to you for any meetings of judges which we hold.

It is true that many subjects we consider are in fields into which your practice seldom takes you, and it is also true that many subjects you consider during your conventions probably cover matters concerning which judicial discretion in the trial of lawsuits will not be exercised.

However, there are many areas of common interest which we, as lawyers and judges, should and may consider together. The case in

point, of course, is your discussion this morning of the proposed rule changes in which our association, en masse, had the pleasure of meeting with you.

It is my personal opinion that the need is becoming more and more insistent that we do consider problems together. I do honestly believe that the Court Administrator Act recently passed will make a great difference in the attitude we must take toward superior court judges.

As you know, superior court judges are both county officers and state officers. As you also know, we regard ourselves primarily in the light of county officers. We are elected by the county or counties within our district. The Bar and the judges in many counties know each other well, not only in business, but socially. Many times we meet and make our own arrangement of the work load for convenience in the administration of justice on a county level. We often make our own rules of procedure, which probably vary somewhat from the printed rules. We do this by agreement.

There is, indeed, a great lack of uniformity among the courts of the state, but we do these things on the local level. Also, we enjoy and know each other. I feel that I can keep one step ahead of many of my local lawyers as the trial progresses, and I know they know my blind side. They know my prejudices, my sympathies. They probably know where my discretion often will fall.

The accent has been on the superior court judge as a county officer. I do feel that the Court Administrator Act will replace the accent and will cause us to regard the superior court judge more in the light of a state officer.

The purpose of this Act is farsighted. It is to see that the deplorable conditions that exist in some states in the matter of the administration of justice will never visit our great state of Washington. It recognizes that the mere expedient of increasing judges in certain districts is not the realistic approach to the problem of the equitable and efficient administration of the state. It therefore recognizes that judges will serve on a statewide level. This means, of course, that many local rules will be abolished in order that the Act may be efficiently administered. It means that your judge will go calling more often. Although this has been done in the past, it has been done on a very happy level where the local court condescends or agrees to visit, having in mind the needs and the convenience of his local bar and constituents and also, possibly, of his own social engagements and desires.

This Act means that your judge will be required to serve elsewhere.

It will often mean that, in order to equitably distribute the work load, your cases will sometimes be stricken and reassigned on the calendar. It will also mean, sometimes, that you will see strange faces when you go to try a case.

In view of these changes, I would like to say this as President Judge of the Judges' Association: I honestly feel, and I believe the other judges in the Association feel, the time has come when we should get together much more often on a state level.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNERS
AND
ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
George W. Martin

I want to summarize a few things that I have been impressed with during the past year as your President. I am more impressed than ever that the practice of law is not a business and shouldn't be a business; that it is a profession and should continue to be a profession. I am more convinced than ever that the practice of law is a privilege and not a right and that lawyers should conduct themselves in the highest traditions of the Bar. I am persuaded that the courts are not made for the judges nor for the lawyers, but that the courts are made for the public and that everything should be done for the benefit of the public in the conduct of litigation and the settlement of disputes.

I feel that we have a paramount duty to the public first, and to ourselves second. And I believe that we have an obligation within our own ranks to uphold our profession and give it a good name and improve it in prestige.

During the past year I have had tremendous help from the executives of the Bar Association, and I may say to you that Alice Ralls, as executive secretary, has done a tremendous job and deserves your thanks. I might also tell you that during the past year we employed the services of T. M. Royce to act as counsel for the Bar Association. I know that his predecessor did a very fine bit of work for many, many years, and that Mr. Royce is an outstanding lawyer, a lawyer with high ideals and high regard for the profession and also a man of sound judgment.

Functions of the State Bar Association: Admissions to the Bar

Now, as far as the Bar Association is concerned, I have felt that its functions fall into the following categories. And I think the work of the Bar Association is much more important than most lawyers think