

# REUNION

AS USUAL, I'M THE LAST SPEAKER, AND EVERYTHING HAS BEEN SAID. THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE PITIABLE. I PLANNED TO COME HERE AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; INSTEAD, I AM HERE, OUT OF OFFICE, SPEAKING LAST, DEFENSELESS AGAINST THE M.C. DOUG HEAD. MORE THAN THAT, TWO FEDERAL JUDGES HAVE PRECEDED ME, BOTH THERE WITH MY HELP AND BOTH DESTINED TO WIELD ENORMOUS POWER LONG AFTER I'VE LEFT THE FEDERAL SERVICE.

THAT IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT, SO FAR AS I CAN TELL, NO ONE HAS READ MY LAW REVIEW NOTE ON THE CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT FOR THIRTY YEARS.

BUT ALL IS NOT BAD. THE COURT HAS BEEN WANDERING FOR MANY YEARS, BUT NOW, WITH THAT DYNAMIC DUO FROM ARIZONA ON THE FEDERAL BENCH, CANBY AND REHNQUIST, I'M SURE THE SITUATION WILL IMPROVE. THAT HAS BEEN CANBY'S LUCK. HE HEADED THE PEACE CORPS IN ETHIOPIA, AND THEN TAUGHT CONSTITUTIONAL LAW IN UGANDA. BOTH NATIONS HAVE SINCE SHOWN THE RICH INFLUENCE OF CANBY'S THINKING.

WE FINALLY GOT MACLAUGHLIN ON THE FEDERAL BENCH. IT IS MY MAJOR LEGACY. I WAS SO THRILLED I ADMINISTERED HIS OATH PERSONALLY IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND TOOK HIM IN TO SEE THE PRESIDENT AFTER IT WAS OVER, WHEN IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO CHANGE HIS MIND. IT WAS AN UNUSUAL CEREMONY. HARRY PUT HIS RIGHT HAND ON THE BIBLE AND RAISED HIS LEFT HAND. WHEN I ASKED HIM TO RAISE HIS RIGHT HAND, HE DECLINED, SAYING HE WAS SAVING IT FOR THE NEXT CEREMONY SWEARING HIM IN AS A CIRCUIT JUDGE.

EVEN THOUGH I WASN'T ELECTED, I KNOW YOU ALL TRIED, IN YOUR FASHION. EVEN DOUG HEAD HELPED. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO, BUT HE DID. AFRAID THAT I WAS LOSING THE SUPPORT OF ORGANIZED LABOR, DOUG WAS QUOTED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES AS SAYING I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR LABOR AND HATED BUSINESS. THANKS TO DOUG, THAT CONCERN WAS OBLITERATED RIGHT THERE.

IT IS NOW THIRTY YEARS, SINCE WE LEFT THE LAW SCHOOL. I THINK WE WERE DIFFERENT. WE LOVED LAW SCHOOL, AT LEAST MOST OF IT. WE WERE BLESSED BY A REMARKABLE FACULTY. MIKE SOVERN LATER BECAME DEAN OF COLUMBIA AND IS NOW THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. WHEN I PRACTICED FOR THE DEBATE, HE STOOD IN FOR REAGAN. AFTER THAT, REAGAN WAS A POWDERPUFF. MONRAD PAULSON BECAME DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA AND LATER AT CARDOZO. HE DIED A PREMATURE DEATH, WHICH IS REMARKABLE CONSIDERING THE ABSTEMIOUS AND ASCETIC LIFE HE LEAD. TERRY SANDALOW IS NOW DEAN OF THE UNIV OF MICHIGAN AND JESSE CHOPER WAS DEAN OF THE UCLA LAW SCHOOL. AND WHO COULD FORGET THE MODEST KEN DAVIS AND THE EVEN MORE MODEST CHARLES ALAN WRIGHT, WHO EVEN TODAY CONCEEDS HIMSELF TO BE AMERICA'S MOST BRILLIANT LEGAL SCHOLAR. WE HAD THE BEST.

BUT THAT WASN'T ALL. WE JUMPED AT THE LAW, WE WANTED TO BE GOOD, WE SAW IT'S LARGER PUBLIC PURPOSE. WE WANTED NOT ONLY TO DO GOOD OURSELVES BUT TO SERVE SOCIETY AND I BELIEVE WE HAVE AND WILL.

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, WE BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS AND REMAIN SO, AS TONIGHTS CROWD SHOWS. WHEREVER WE HAVE GONE, WHATEVER WE HAVE DONE, WE CHERISH THOSE YEARS TOGETHER, AND REJOICE IN OUR FRIENDSHIP. WE ARE ALL OLD ENOUGH NOW TO KNOW HOW RARE AND PRICELESS OUR FRINDSHIP IS. IN SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET, POLONIUS ADVISED HIS SON LAERTES IN THOSE FAMOUS INSTRUCTIONS: "THOSE FRIENDS THOU HAST, AND THEIR ADOPTION TRIED, GRAPPLE THEM TO THY SOUL WITH HOOPS OF STEEL."

I BELIEVE I CAN SPEAK FOR EVERYONE HERE TONIGHT. AFTER ALL OF THOSE YEARS, WE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN TONIGHT, OUR FRIENDSHIP PROVED, AND WE REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER WITH THOSE

HOOPS OF STEEL THAT HAVE, AND ALWAYS WILL, HOLD US TOGETHER AS TRUE FRIENDS. NOT BAD.

REMARKS OF WALTER F. MONDALE  
CLASS OF '56 REUNION  
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA--OCTOBER 11, 1986

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