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Respect for Law

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proved strong enough to wield the power of a mighty people and to maintain the sacred right of the humblest citizen to life, liberty and property.

“To know our fundamental law, and to realize how well it has served its purpose, is to reverence it and to be devoted to its preservation. The lesson should be learned in youth. It is not dull and uninteresting. The story of the Constitution, well told, with simplicity and charm, will appeal to the youthful imagination with no less power than do Concord, the Delaware and Trenton. The difficulties surmounted by those who established the Constitution are no less inspiring than the struggles of those who won independence on the battlefields.”

REVIEW

Gleanings from Bar Briefs of thirteen years ago are interesting reading and may have some application to the situation in which we now find ourselves.

RESPECT FOR LAW

Just a short time prior to his resignation, United States Attorney, General Stone directed attention to the growing and insistent complaint that our system of law enforcement is breaking down in the following language:

“We make a prodigious number of laws. In enacting them we disregard the principles of draftsmanship and leave in uncertainty their true meaning and effect. More and more we take over into the field of positive law that sphere of human action which has been hitherto untrammled by legal restrictions, without thought of the extent to which a wise policy may leave some phase of human activity to the control of moral sanctions or to the restraints of the community sense of what is right conduct.

“We disregard the principle that there is a point beyond which the restraints of positive law cannot be carried without placing too great a strain on the machinery and the agencies of law enforcement. We leave out of account the true relationship of the law to be enforced to the agencies for enforcing it. We build up our administrative machinery with ever-increasing powers and authority in administrative officers at the expense of individual liberty and freedom of the citizen.

“To preserve in our system the principles of individual liberty and to accommodate to them the requirements of an efficient administrative system, to ascertain the principles which govern the relationship of positive law to the machinery and processes of law enforcement, are problems which cannot be solved wholly in the field of politics and of government. To their solution, schools of law and of political science have contributions to make. There must be brought to bear upon them the same thorough-going research, the same analysis carried forward in the spirit of science

and scholarship as have hitherto been devoted to the study of law."

LIBERTY OR TYRANNY

"The Constitution is not self-perpetuating. If it is to survive, it will be because it has public support. Such support is not a passive but an active operation. It means making adequate sacrifice to maintain what is of general benefit.

"The Constitution of the United States is the final refuge of every right that is enjoyed by any American citizen. So long as it is observed, those rights will be secure. Whenever it falls into disrespect or disrepute, the end of orderly government as we have known it for more than one hundred and twenty-five years, will be at hand.

"The Constitution represents a government of law. There is only one other authority and that is a government of force. Americans must make their choice between these two. One signifies justice and liberty; the other, tyranny and oppression.

"To live under the American Constitution is the greatest privilege that was ever accorded to the human race."—President Coolidge's foreword to special edition of "The Constitution of the U. S." by James M. Beck.

OUR NEED

Hon. Charles Evans Hughes, at the time President of the American Bar Association, just shortly before his retirement as Secretary of State, gave voice to the following:

"As I look throughout the world the one great need appears to me to be, not some formula or rule, but the stimulation and growth of law-abiding sentiment — the disposition to be reasonable, to be fair, to settle things according to the available standards of justice, to enforce the conceptions of justice against the demands of brute force. This is what it will come to at the end. All our plans for law and order and peace rest on that sentiment. It is useless to be an apostle of peace throughout the world unless you are an apostle of peace at home. It is useless to talk of great institutions of justice throughout the world, unless you have them at home."

This brings to mind, and causes the Secretary to make bold and repeat, something he said in January, after listening to a very inspirational talk on "World Peace" at one of the Bismarck service clubs, to-wit: "Every one who heard the wonderful inspirational talk last week can readily understand the need and the opportunity for building upon the basis of these material values the moral and spiritual values that will really make for better relations here at home. He also understands and appreciates it is hoped, that there can be no 'world peace' until men and women learn to live in peace, as friends, as neighbors, as citizens — in the same country, in the same state, in the same community, in the same neighborhood."

**DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL MEETING AT VALLEY CITY
JULY 16-17, 1937.**