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Presentation and Unveiling of a Portrait of Judge T. Blake Kennedy - Our Honored Guest

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I could not help but conclude that the judicial conference is something that is vitally needed in the State of Wyoming. Here, as in the federal courts, the judges and lawyers must sit down together and discuss the ways and means of improving justice—a problem which I assume has always been and always will be with us. There must be give and take at such meetings, the lawyers assuming the burden of making the suggestions and the judges finding the flaws in the suggestions if any there be. The results may be compromise but results and benefits there surely must be.

If lawyers cannot participate in the improvement of the administration of justice, if we must accept the practice and procedure as it exists, if the participants in the contest may not themselves make suggestions for changes in the rules, then our judicial system must of necessity become strait laced and inflexible. By decision we tend to establish what cannot be done. By rule we may be able to provide what should be done. With all humility and with full realization of our human weaknesses and ability to err but with absolute conviction as to our sincerity of purpose I ask only that the lawyers be given a responsible part in this great work.

PRESENTATION AND UNVEILING OF A PORTRAIT
OF JUDGE T. BLAKE KENNEDY
“OUR HONORED GUEST”

E. J. SULLIVAN*

Once again the membership of the Wyoming Bar are showing their affection for me in permitting me to function tonight in the presentation to the United States of America, through Judge Orie L. Phillips, Chief Judge, U. S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, of a very delightful picture of our beloved Judge T. Blake Kennedy of the U. S. District Court of Wyoming. I assume I was chosen to do this because of my long acquaintance with Judge Kennedy and the very high affectionate regard in which I hold him.

We, Judge Kennedy and I, arrived in Wyoming about the same time. The population of Wyoming at that time was not as large as it is now and the area seemed to be larger. I suppose that was because we didn't have the counties of Platte, Goshen, Park, Washakie, Hot Springs, Teton, Sublette or Lincoln. It was a period in Wyoming when those of us who were active seemed to be closer. The man living in Cheyenne knew the man living in Casper or Sheridan about as well as he knew his neighbors.

My first contact with Judge Kennedy was when I was chosen a member of the House of Representatives. I recall very vividly what seemed to

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me at that time a peculiarity, namely, that in travelling from my county seat, Basin, to the state capital, I went through the States of Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska to arrive at Sidney, Nebraska, and traveled in a westerly direction to Cheyenne.

The session of the legislature I first attended in Cheyenne had the duty of selecting a U. S. Senator. (It was the last time the legislature selected senators.) At that session the House was composed of 28 Democrats and 28 Republicans and one Republican who voted with the Democrats and was elected speaker. The members of the respective parties were interested, of course, in doing what they could to bring about the selection of a candidate of their respective parties for the office of U. S. Senator. It was in connection with work of that character that I first met Judge Kennedy. He was not Judge Kennedy at that time but was T. Blake Kennedy practicing law with the rest of us. My position in the House of Representatives was more or less prominent and I found myself counseling with Blake Kennedy on the manner in which the candidate of my party might be chosen. I realized at that time in my work with him that I was at the feet of a Master, and a considerable part of the credit given me then was really due Blake Kennedy. He was in great part the guiding spirit. It brought us very close and we have remained that way every hour since. Hence, you see that it is pleasing to me to join with you in making this one of his most pleasant hours.

It may be strange to some of you to think of Honorable T. Blake Kennedy, Judge of the U. S. Wyoming District, as having been interested in politics. He is a politician; I am a politician and all you members of the Bar should be politicians in the sense that politics is the science of government. Take an interest in the government of our State. Remember this government is a government by parties and, in my opinion, there is room for not more than two outstanding parties. Select whatever party you want, but select a party, join it and work within it. It is ill becoming a lawyer to say "I don't vote for the party; I vote for the man." Join your party and be proud of it and do what you can to advise the members of the parties with which you are allied that our first duty is to protect our country and it can be done more effectively when all the people in the community will exercise their right to vote. That is what Blake Kennedy and I were doing in the early days to which I refer. The State is better when a man of the caliber of T. Blake Kennedy will take an interest in the affairs of state. At that time and ever since he has been an outstanding, honorable, upright member of the Bar, when he was in the general practice with us, and he has been, to many of us, an exceptionally brilliant member of the judiciary.

And now, Judge Phillips, I feel especially honored to present to the United States of America, through you, the portrait of Judge T. Blake Kennedy.