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Remarks

T. Blake Kennedy

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association with him, as we have labored together on the work of administering law and equity to the ends that the actions of men and of government shall be in accord with right and justice.

And, when he shall have passed from us, and lest those who remain and those who come after, shall too soon forget and in forgetting fail to reap in the fullest measure the rich inspiration and the influence for good emanating from the life, the work, the achievements, and the character of this good and just man, it is fitting and proper to hang in the temple of justice he has so long graced, this portrait, as a gift to his country which he has loved and honored with a high order of public service. For, if, as we are told by the scientists and the philosophers, every form of matter or energy registers its effect throughout infinitude, that the pebble dropped in placid water spreads ever widening circles to unknown ends, that the scent of the modest violet pervades the universe, then surely the life of this man, with its gentleness, its lessons of probity, service, and courage, will continue on by remembrance through the years to come and in God's good time blossom again and again in the thoughts and acts of those unknown, and perhaps unborn.

What we say here will soon be forgotten. What he has done and will continue to do, will long endure. He is giving to life impulses that will long abide.

In behalf of the United States, I accept this portrait as a gift from the Bar of Wyoming.

REMARKS

T. BLAKE KENNEDY*

Judge Pickett, as Moderator of this occasion, Judge Phillips, all visiting Judges, of whom several are present upon this occasion (and enough to "unsettle" all the taxation problems we have heard at this session of the Association), Members of the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen, friends all:

I never was so embarrassed in my life. I have realized, especially during my service on the bench, that lawyers are given to exaggeration at times. That could be expected and forgiven on account of their enthusiasm for the cause which they are representing, but I have never heard such a complete super-abundance of exaggeration as I have heard here tonight and therefore I am embarrassed with it. I wish to thank all of the speakers of the evening for the very commendatory remarks that they have made in regard to my service on the bench. I have been considering whether or not this magnanimous gift from the State Bar members was

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really a tribute to my service as such or to the length of that service. If it is the latter, I think it is the first time that I have ever been able to cash in on old age. But, nevertheless, whether that be true or not, I wish to say to my good friend Gene (Sullivan) that he is also given to some sort of exaggeration in our early association along political lines because it was I who was grovelling at his feet to find the answer to the problems which were confronting us at that time and he was the master from whom I learned all that was achieved in the way of political acumen. There is one thing that I can say in regard to the occasion and what has been going on here tonight and during the last week in having all these pictures in the papers, etc., that maybe after all, looking at it in the sense of this particular era, when we find anybody who wants to put on some program he does a great deal of advertising that there may be a practical result and I hope it is going to bring me some business.

Perhaps it might be pertinent to mention that the District of Wyoming has somewhat of a notable history in that we have been in statehood some 61 years and during that time we have had only two federal judges. I doubt whether there is a District in the country that has that peculiar situation. I do not take any particular credit for it, except we happened to have a couple of old fellows who just lived on. My predecessor, John A. Riner, was the first judge of the Wyoming District and served for a period of 31 years and if I live until the coming October, I will have been in service on the Federal Bench for 30 years, and that covers the entire period of statehood.

The so-called portrait, I suppose is fairly representative of the speaker. My dear friend Dr. Sigall asked me what I thought of it after it had been exhibited over at Cheyenne and I said to him that I am no judge on that proposition. I leave that to my friends. I don't know how I look, but if it gives you any satisfaction I will say this to you—that it is a perfect reproduction of my glasses.

It may be astonishing to most of the laymen, if there are any in the audience, and I do not in that respect wish to exclude the ladies because they usually tell us what to do anyway, and thereby belong to the profession, that what I say may be astonishing to most people who think that any lawyer would hesitate to accept a position on the Federal Bench, and there are some members of the profession, not all of them, that would feel the same way in regard to that proposition, but I want to confess to you at this time that as a matter of fact I hesitated when it seemed that there was a fairly good likelihood of my being nominated for the position because of the fact that I had to leave the practice of my profession and that wasn't entirely controlled by the thought that my income would be somewhat diminished by serving on the bench as compared to the practice of law. But I loved my profession, I loved the practice of law and particularly I loved the association with members of the Bar. I, therefore, have tried during my period of service on the bench to keep as much as possible in

association with the members of the Bar, not only on account of the pleasure that it gives me, but I think it a very good thing to know personally the members of the Bar who practice before you. Of course at times we have to be a little bit careful. I have never thought it would be appropriate for any lawyer to call me off the bench when I was trying a case to whisper in my ear or anything like that, but I do think there comes from it an understanding that is very valuable, not only to the lawyer, but to the man on the bench, that they would be able to associate in a free manner. And this brings me to what I desire to say here now in closing—that in my estimation I could have no finer tribute, nothing could come into my life that would give me as much satisfaction as to be presented this portrait by the members of the Bar of my own state. I appreciate it very much. It means more to me than if it were given by a relative or a close friend, or anyone else who might have had the idea in mind, to have the members of the Bar who have practiced before me, many of them for a period of thirty years, to consider me in the light of being worthy of having presented and have in the courtroom where I have presided for this long term of years, some recollection of my service there. I thank you very much.