

Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Senator Theodore E. Burton, 75th birthday, 1926.



To the
Honorable
Theodore E. Burton
in commemoration of his
Seventy-Fifth Birthday
from his
Cleveland Friends

1926

DINNER

Honorable Theodore E. Burton

B B B

Cotuit Cocktail

Celery - Olives - Nuts

3

Cream a la Reine Cheese Straws

WRHS &

Supreme of Guinea Chicken Hollenden
Sweet Potatoes Louisiana
Wild Rice Indienne
Guava Jelly

3

Grapefruit Salad

Se se

Baked Alaska

00

Coffee

Cigars
Cigarettes
Apollinaris



Banquet Committee

SAMUEL MATHER, Honorary Chairman
PAUL HOWLAND, Active Chairman
W.R.COATES, Secretary THOMAS E. MONKS, Treasurer

John L. Severance

Corliss E. Sullivan

J. Arthur House

J. R. Nutt

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H. G. Dalton

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Eugene R. Grasselli

Arthur H. Seibig

Elbert H. Baker

George F. Moran

Earl Martin

Ted O. Thackrey

Carmi A. Thompson

Samuel Scovil

Richard F. Grant

E. M. Baker

Charles A. Otis

Andrew Squire

W. B. Stewart

A. R. Horr

W. G. Lee

Frank A. Scott

Ernest S. Mills

Programme

PAUL HOWLAND, Toastmaster
Dr. Dan F. Bradley, Invocation

90

DINNER

90

WILLIAM R. HOPKINS
"Senator Burton and the City of Cleveland"

ERIE C. HOPWOOD
"Senator Burton and the Press"

Monsignor Joseph F. Smith "Senator Burton and his Influence for Good"

Judge JOHN J. SULLIVAN
"Senator Burton and the Legal Profession"

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
"Senator Burton—the Scholar in Politics"

Senator ATLEE POMERENE
"Senator Burton and the Congress"

Theodore E. Burton wites 26-Dec 1926

SENATOR BURTON -- THE SCHOLAR IN POLITICS.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver: I am indeed grateful for this opportunity to add my brief tribute to the symposium this evening, a symposium of tributes, to that life of service and usefulness which is Senator Burton's. I am not of that privileged group of men who know Senator Burton intimately, but, as a fellow citizen, and as one somewhat interested because of his profession in public affairs, I have followed with the keenest appreciation the political career of this man whom we delight to honor tonight.

I have been asked to respond to the toast, "Senator Burton, the Scholar in Politics." The scholar in politics, more particularly in American politics, is a rare creature, a rare bird indeed, which alights but occasionally on our democratic shores. We are acquainted with many types of men in our public life. We know the amateur in politics, the man who chooses the political career as an avocation because he has nothing else to do, or the man who chooses the political career as a vocation because he can't do anything else. We are acquainted with all types of temperaments in our political life, from the jovial, smiling, hale_fellow_well_met, friend of the people, to the austere and somber and profoundly silent guardian of our liberty.

But the scholar in politics is rare. The man who

knows, the man who knows what it is all about, the man who knows the philosophy and the theory of government, the man who approaches his task without pretense and without sham, the man who in common with his confreres in other professions humbly applies himself to the task with foremost ability to probe out the fact, to get to the realities in a situation, and the man who has equipped himself with a well trained intellect of accuracy and precision which he can bring to bear upon these facts once discovered, for constructive and helpful thinking --I say the scholar in politics, as we all know, is very rare, and that is rather unfortunate because politics, of all the departments of human life, requires, to my way of thinking, the maximum of scholar ship, especially in our own day when government is touching so many fields of human endeavor, when government is almost becoming allembracing in its scope. It is of supreme moment that scholarship be employed. Almost every important national issue today ultimately resolves itself into questions of economics or sociology or law; sometimes into questions of history, sometimes psychology; and these sciences so indispensable in intelligent government today do not come by intuition but by study, the kind of study that hollows the cheek and wrinkles the brow and tires the heart.

The issues before a great legislative body today,

friends, are no longer of that white or black type, the absolute right on the one hand and the absolute wrong on the other, so that any man with a minimum of intelligence can discover for himself what side of the issue he ought to be on. Distinctions in issues today are not as sharply drawn. There are certain shavings and delicate nuances, and the choice is oftentimes very difficult to make, and only that man who knows the details and the minutia, the microscopic fact very often—only that man is able to contribute something real to progressive government today.

If Senator Burton has been enabled to render historic service to his country in many vital problems, in the problems of appropriation, of the monetary system, of our national waterways, in international negotiations touching the control of arms, or on allied debts, it was due not only to the fact that Senator Burton is preeminently a man of integrity and honor and courage, but also because he knew. He mastered his facts. He was able to bring to a given situation a wide and thorough and precise knowledge of the facts, and he brought a comprehensive understanding of all the collateral issues involved, and along with it all a ripe and seasoned wisdom which came to him as a result of a life-long contact with the best which has been spoken or written by the best minds of mankind.

He was listened to in high positions because he spoke

as a man having authority. I have oftentimes thought, and in that thought I found a great deal of confidence and encouragement, that the periodic re-elections to high office which the citizens of this city and this state were privileged to bestow upon the Senator, were not only a tribute to the Senator himself, but more so a tribute to the growing intelligence of our electorate and a vindication of our representative form of government.

I think it was George Bernard Shaw who said some time ago, with a great deal of justification, of the impulse of the average citizen when he discovers superiority in a man: "The impulse of the average citizen, when he discovers superiority in a man, is to tar and feather him, and not to vote for him."

That has been very true, as we all know, in most instances. People as a rule like mediocrity. They can warm themselves up to mediocrity. Superiority is cold and oftentimes dry.

We have from time to time had men of first rank in office, but, very often, as the result of pure accident. The fact that here and there, and especially here in our own city and in our own state, there was a sufficient number of American citizens who were able to recognize superiority in a man, and, instead of tarring and feathering him, elevating him to a position of prominence and importance and honoring him, is to my mind a happy

augury for the future.

I believe in American democracy in spite of all its failings and shortcomings and delinquencies, and I am not unacquainted of these things, but I believe that the day will come when men of the type which Senator Burton so splendidly represents will, if not predominate, certainly be largely represented in our legislative halls. I believe that the time is coming when men will train themselves for the profession of politics as closely as they train themselves for the profession of engineering or medicine, and I believe that the time is coming when men will look upon the profession of the politician, and I use that word with all the stigma which unfortunately attaches itself to it -that the profession of the politician, of the public servant, of the administering of our public affairs, will be looked upon as one of supreme worth and honor and dignity in our republic, and it is men of the type of Senator Burton which are bringing that day appreciably nearer and nearer through their life of service, of intelligence and scholarly application to the detailed problems of government through their life of unselfishness and absolute faithfulness.

And so I join with all of you friends, and with all the citizens of this land, in extending my heartiest felicitations to him who has honored us by the life which he has lived, and by the noble traditions which he has

established. May he go from strength to strength, and may his greatest reward in life be that he will have raised many disciples who will follow in the footsteps of this scholar in politics. (Applause.)

Mr. Howland: Well, gentlemen, I think it was
President Garfield that said, in one of those beautiful
orations of his, that the sweetest and most beautiful of
the flowers were the ones that bloomed on the garden wall
of politics. The gentleman who is to propose the next
toast has, for a great many years, called himself a
democrat. Nobody else would think of calling him such a
hard, harsh name (laughter), but he is going to pick a
few flowers that bloom on the garden wall of politics.
He served, I think, with Senator Burton, and he is familiar
to a very large degree with the standing and the influence
of Senator Burton. He will propose the toast, "Senator
Burton and the Congress." Senator Atlee Pomerene.
(Great applause.)

Theo. But and Pol. 1. I am gate feel for this offerhoust, to add my futet to This mymposium trucken The left of surice and use ful pour who know B. into makely - but a configuration as a fellow city on and on on net allogethes unaskers had in prebly affireis, I have for your followed with theen appreciation the public seenies , This burean whom we dely lot to home The solder in law polities is recolled a raisa airs. - a rare bud which my occasionally legats upon our leur. shores. We hash an abrindance y umateurs in polities - muy muster y vacieties for from the man who adopts a pol. career as an association - having nothing No to bo, to the wan who adoptes it for a living- being unable to do any they also. We have had all variation of temperaments represented in our further men to the friend the proposed the project to the austice mention wellow void triend the feefel to the austice mention and perfoundly silent teachers by and foundly silent the executive of the second to we there the his task Icholar in politics - the man who approaches his task with out preteure sent shown - who, humany set whent lette bei confuce in o the perfection, to dercover the test and the realities in a griter to thereto and the realities in a griter to there of their of the or of the trust of their of the order to bring a well trained intellect of precision and accuracy to fall unt when these facts. The wholest gall propension - fittees requires of maximum apain, to the feel feelen but it

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