



Henry F. Tenney, JD '15, welcoming the American Bar Association to the campus on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

HENRY F. TENNEY, '15

The Board of Trustees, The University of Chicago

This is a most happy occasion for the University of Chicago. It is my pleasant duty to welcome you as visitors and to welcome our distinguished new neighbor, the American Bar Association. I know that I speak fully for the University in extending to the Association and to the American Bar Foundation our congratulations and warmest best wishes for a long, happy, and prosperous life in their new home.

This is an important occasion for the universities as well as for the legal profession. Legal education has developed greatly in the last fifty years. The training of lawyers is now a proud part of the work of most of our great universities. There is increasing recognition of the importance within a university of studies and research into the meaning and effect of institutions of the law. The presence of this new building—and these proceedings—on a university campus are powerful and appropriate symbols of the ties that bind the legal profession to the life of scholarship and of learning. The lawyer lives simultaneously in two worlds—the world of learning and the world of affairs. Ours is a profession which must place high values upon research, upon learning, upon that practical wisdom which experience creates. The building we dedicate today is an impressive

commitment to research. It exemplifies that blending of learning and practical experience which gives to the law its character, its balance, and its worth.

The dedication of a new building is truly a ceremony of civilization. It means many things; it evokes many reflections. But one thing surely it is for all—it is an act of hope. It is an expression of confidence in the future. In the case of the building we dedicate today this has special point. In a world so dangerously beset with the problems of lawlessness, this new Law Center stands as an expression of the confident expectation that we and our children and our children's children will continue to be a people enjoying liberty under law.

The dedication of the new law building is also the occasion for the legal profession to pause, to take stock, and to look back to the great tradition it has inherited and to the great tradition it will pass on. In a speech some twenty years ago to a law-school graduating class, Judge Learned Hand reflected with typical candor on the insignificant contribution that each individual lawyer can make to the cause of justice, but he concluded with the following words:

When our lights burn low, when we seem to stand futile and without meaning, used up in the senseless strife of interest and passion, concerned with nothing better than to get for others what perhaps they should not have, let us look up to the great edifice which our forebears have built, of which we are now the guardians and the craftsmen. Though severally we may perhaps be paltry and inconsequent, for the present it is we who are charged with its maintenance and its growth. Descended to us, in some sort moulded by our hands, passed on to the future with reverence and with pride, we at once its servants and its masters, renew our fealty to the Law.

The builders have built well. We must now rededicate ourselves as builders for the future.



Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, Chief Justice Walter V. Schaefer, '28, and Mr. J. A. McAuley.