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Law in the Future: A Collection of Essays

Foreword

JAMES E. MEEKS*

This is a most unusual and exciting issue of the Ohio State Law Journal. It encompasses in a relatively small number of pages a remarkable set of insights into our society, where we have been and where we are going. I say "society" rather than "law" because the law is primarily a reflection of society; it is the means by which society accomplishes its articulated and unarticulated goals. Thus, in looking at the future of law and legal institutions, the contributors to this symposium have inevitably looked at the future of society. One characteristic that makes this set of essays so exciting is the diversity of social predictions generated by the diversity of subjects specifically addressed. It is not unlike the tale of the blind men who each felt a different part of the elephant. But the striking impression that one obtains from reading these essays as a group is a sense of the wholeness of the animal.

Another notable quality of this enterprise is its view of the past. All of the authors, to varying degrees, have found it necessary to reflect upon recent, and even not so recent, events in order to predict the future. Consequently, this set of essays provides an exceptionally fine review of past events and developments.

In 1956, the Northwestern University Law Review published a similar symposium. In his introduction to that memorable set of essays, Justice Frankfurter referred to Jefferson's view that social institutions, or at least the basic rules that govern society, should be subject to systematic review every eighteen years. He viewed those essays as partially fulfilling that requirement. The present essays provide a similarly critical assessment, and, perhaps more importantly, prompt the reader to review where we are and where we are going.

No less than the fields of law discussed, this collection of essays itself exemplifies continuity and change. The initial stimulus for this issue came from Professor Claude Sowle, at present a distinguished member of the faculty of the Ohio State University College of Law, who in 1956 was

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Editor in Chief of the Northwestern University Law Review. Thus was the seed of a perennially worthy idea transplanted and nurtured to produce a new flower, of the same species yet unique. I invite you to read on.

* Dean, The Ohio State University College of Law.