President's Message

Dear Mr. O'Donoghue:

Questions facing the graduate of 1932 are entirely different from those of a few years ago. It is safe to say one of the uppermost, if not the uppermost, question in the mind of the average graduate entering the legal profession, or medicine, or engineering, has been in the immediate past, how much can I expect to make during my first five years of practice.

As I see it, today the big question facing all of us is whether the next few years are going to see a complete breakdown in civilization. Will capitalism survive, or shall we be obliged to go through the experience of Russia in the last fifteen years, ending no one knows where? I do not hold any brief for socialism as it now is. It has its faults and many of them. Very closely connected is the question of the solution of the problem of disarmament. If this problem is not solved satisfactorily and in the immediate future, we shall face repudiation of debts by most of the great countries of the world. If we reach the point where there is no honor among nations, which, wherever the cause, will be true if national repudiation becomes general, how can we expect any honor to continue to exist among individuals. It is not a pleasant outlook to contemplate.

I am not inclined to agree with Dr. Hibben, if he is correctly reported in today's New York Times, that 'the peak of American civilization was reached during the World War'. We have become so thoroughly disillusioned about many of the ideals of the War that I should hesitate to say that the altruistic superhuman energy expended in the attainment of those new disillusioned ideals represented the peak of American civilization.

Whether profession the graduate of 1932 enters, much will depend on his attitude of mind. The only way we can save what is worth saving of our present civilization, and much of it is worth saving unquestionably, is by an ultra-progressive attitude of mind coupled with a proper attitude of conservation. At first blush, these two attitudes may seem contradictory, but I do not believe such is necessarily the case. A surgeon whom you and I would respect and trust, if he were about to perform a very delicate operation might, were he perfectly honest with the patient's relatives, admit to them that the operation was most dangerous and that he doubted very much whether it would be successful and save the patient's life. We will all agree, however, that the surgeon would be morally unsound if he should follow that statement by another one that this being so, it was hardly worth while to sterilize his instruments or take the precautions which careful surgeons have been taking for the last twenty-five years. This illustration, I may in part, explain what I mean when I say that we must be ultra-progressive with a conservative background in meeting present day problems.
It is useless to deny that the world today is at the cross roads. It will be only
by the greatest exertion on the part of everyone that we shall be able to get out of
our present difficulties. We all must make our contribution to this task. I believe,
however, the lawyer is in a position to make a greater contribution than the average
man. While this is not the pleasantest picture for the law school graduate in 1932 to
face, it is undeniably a supreme opportunity for him to have an important part in
the solution of the world's problems. Personally, I am not yet ready to be a
thorough pessimist, nor should I wish to subscribe to Dr. Hibben's statement that
the world was better in 1880 than it is today. The great mass of our people must
become conscious of the obligations resting on each individual and that very soon, if
we are to avoid the dismal outlook which the pessimist and the near pessimist with
some degree of reason is painting for us today. I very much hope the members of
the graduating class of 1932 of New Jersey Law School will be able to make their
contribution to this problem, which we all agree, must be solved, and, I add with
confidence, must be solved correctly.

Sincerely yours,
RICHARD D. CURRIER.

A
Word
From The
Dean
Dean's Message

To the Editor of The Legacy,
New Jersey Law School.

Dear Frank:

Another academic year at New Jersey Law School nears its end—another senior class prepares to don its sheepskin and saunter forth to lie down with the lions. Once again it is my privilege, through the medium of The Legacy, its yearbook, to wish the members of the Class of 1932 Godspeed.

Perhaps you will pardon me if this year I say in parting: These be parous times, perchance; but they will again get better. It is for you and me, now feasting on the pinch, to prepare for the richness which will some day be ours, provided only we are ready to accept it. Abe Lincoln, you remember, once said, "Get ready and the chance will come." Professional men can never rest. When times are dull, precious moments are provided for study and research against a future hurried time when such opportunity is lacking.

Put not your feet on your desks and snooze while waiting for fame and clients. The man who leads in school may lead in life if only he will persist in those ideals of industry and painstaking care which, there practised, gave him eminence.

When you shall sit in the seats of the mighty you may be sure I shall be glad, and when you are in trouble, please come to me for sympathy and such help as I can give you.

Sincerely yours,

George S. Harris
Dean