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John Cornelius Hayes

WILLIAM L. LAMEY*

I have always found it extremely difficult to memorialize a friend and contemporary. In the case of John Hayes, my task is the more difficult because there are others better qualified to delineate the man's achievements as a law teacher and as a jurist. This issue of Loyola's Law Journal includes testimonials to the knowledge of and respect for the law which Professor John Hayes inculcated in the hundreds of law students he instructed over more than thirty years, and to Judge Hayes' outstanding contribution to the development of the law and the administration of justice.

I prefer, therefore, to speak of John as I saw him over more than a quarter of a century of working together as faculty colleagues at the Law School.

That he was an excellent teacher—whether in the freshman course in Real Property or in the advanced sequence in Wills, Trusts and Estates—was reaffirmed, year after year, by every class he taught. But he was more than a scholar, more than a purveyor of knowledge and techniques. John was a completely dedicated man, dedicated to the law and to its Judeo-Christian tradition, to his students as individuals, and to the Law School. Since 1946, when I joined the Faculty, I know of no member of that Faculty who contributed more to the establishment and maintenance of the highest educational and ethical standards at Loyola's Law School. Both as teacher and dean, John Hayes devoted all of his energy and time to the constant improvement of the academic program and to the problems, academic and personal, of every student who sought him out. Though firm with all on the application of academic standards, he was completely fair and impartial. His understanding, sympathy, and help were reserved, in fullest measure, for those students who needed it most. His office door was always open to fellow faculty members and to his students, and his willingness to listen and to counsel until late into the night was taken for granted as part of the character of the man. Though, personally, he was a striver for perfection in everything he did, he was gentle and understanding toward those less principled.

Though completely dedicated to the law and to legal education, the motivating force, I believe, was the spirituality of the man. He

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didn't wear it on his sleeve, but I have never known anyone whose every word and act—in his professional and personal life—were so closely attuned to his religious convictions. John Hayes did not affirmatively proselytize, but by his logic and example more effectively demonstrated the validity and universality of his principles. I consider him as a modern “man for all seasons.” Most of all, I am honored to remember that he was my friend.