ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR GEORGE BUSBEE
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
LAW SCHOOL ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON
ATHENS, GEORGIA - APRIL 30, 1977, 12:00 NOON

When an old graduate comes back to any campus....
It's customary for him to reminisce a little about the
glories of his student days.... and to confirm to the
faculty which taught him that the problems out in the
real world are exactly as they represented them to be....
and that they are being conquered.

So to Dean Hosch.... and Dr. Green.... and those
who were on my faculty.... I just want to assure you that
as the days come and go.... out in the practical world....
on each and every occasion that I have need to do so....
I do not fail to state "the rule in Shelley's case"....
or "the rule against perpetuities" just like you taught
me over 25 years ago.

I would recommend that you not cross examine me
or anybody else here about how often those occasions
come up.

And likewise I do not fail when the occasion demands
to articulate how a conveyance from A to B only if B marries
C before D's engagement to X.... gives X a springing
executory interest in Blackacre.

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I am particularly grateful to Tom Green for teaching me all the exceptions to the hear-say rule. I found out a long time ago that over in the Capitol if you exclude all the hear-say... you're likely to be totally without information.

There is one other area where I am confident the years have not diminished my comprehension of what was taught here.... but I'm afraid that some of my fellow graduates need a refresher course. I am referring to the proper application of the separation of powers doctrine.

I remember quite well that D. Meade Field made it plain that our system contemplates a strong Executive Branch of Government.... with considerable latitude. So, you can understand how surprised I have been to find that some of my classmates and fellow graduates in the Legislative Branch have in such a short period of time forgotten the thrust of D. Meade's lectures. I've even suspected from time to time that some of those in the Judicial Branch may have temporarily misplaced their notes from D. Meade's classes.
So, I would be most grateful if the Law School would consider establishing the D. Meade Field refresher course on "The Right and Proper Powers of the Executive under our Constitutional System." I think my predecessor would like for you to go national with this course.

Seriously, it is a high honor to stand before the faculty and students and graduates of this Law School to comment briefly about what it means to us as lawyers and as a state.

Throughout this weekend... all over the nation there will be speeches about the role of law in our society... and the crucial significance of the rule of law in our daily lives. I subscribe to that notion fully... but the gist of what I have to say today is less philosophical... less eloquent... but in a real sense... no less important.

That is... the quality of our Law School has a good deal to do with the quality of our Law Practice. The moral tone... the academic tone of our Law School has a good deal to do with the tone of our State and local government.

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The degree of excellence in our law school has a good deal to do with the kind of university we have. And finally, the level of our interest and commitment to our law school is a fairly good barometer of several important things about us as lawyers and the kind of state in which we live and practice.

At this point.... I want to congratulate Gus Cleveland and Cook Barwick upon receiving the Distinguished Service Scroll for their contributions to the law school. Their level of interest.... and their commitment to the law school is an example for all of us to aspire to.

I would certainly be remiss if I did not add that Gus Cleveland has served his profession and his state in another significant way.... and that has been as a member and officer of the Judicial Nominating Commission which has made recommendations to me for judicial appointments.

There are some commissions you can serve on which are heavy on "honor" and light on work.... but in my administration, there have been an unusually large number of judicial vacancies to fill....

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AND THE NOMINATING COMMISSION HAS BEEN VERY HEAVY ON "WORK" AND VERY LIGHT ON "HONOR" AND "RECOGNITION."

SO, ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THOSE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO A HIGH QUALITY JUDICIARY.... I WANT TO ADD A FOOTNOTE TO THE HONOR WHICH IS BEING PAID TO GUS HERE TODAY AND THANK HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS IN THAT REGARD.

I THINK ALL OF US KNOW THAT WE HAVE A GOOD LAW SCHOOL IN ATHENS. I DOUBT IF MANY OF US KNOW HOW GOOD.

THERE ARE A LOT OF WAYS TO MEASURE THE QUALITY OF A LAW SCHOOL.... AND IN SOME RESPECTS, COMPARING LAW SCHOOLS IS VERY SUBJECTIVE.... BUT THERE ARE A FEW FACTS THAT I THINK ARE IMPRESSIVE INDICATORS OF HOW FAR OUR LAW SCHOOL HAS COME.

FOR EXAMPLE IN 1976.... 100% OF THE STUDENTS TAKING THE BAR EXAM FROM THIS LAW SCHOOL PASSED. A DECADE AGO IT WAS BELOW 70%.... AND NOT TOO MANY YEARS AGO IT WAS FAR BELOW 70%. LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 1,200 STUDENTS APPLIED FOR ADMISSION. THE TEST SCORES AND GRADE AVERAGES OF THE CURRENT CROP OF STUDENTS IS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE MOST OF US THAT WE WERE BORN IN THE RIGHT GENERATION.... BECAUSE WE WOULD HAVE A TOUGH TIME GETTING INTO LAW SCHOOL TODAY.

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We now have a law library here with over a quarter of a million volumes which puts us in the top 20 law libraries in the nation.

A good law school means a lot to a state in many different respects, but I want to zero-in on just one area that I think is symbolic of its true significance.

Last night, I had as my guest at the Mansion His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan. After breakfast this morning, he left to go meet with a group of southeastern business and civic leaders... most of whom are from Georgia.

This morning, we were honored to have an outstanding lawyer, now serving as Secretary of State, come to Georgia to make the Law Day address. I can’t think of any better evidence of the proposition that we now have an international perspective in this State.

It is a reality of national politics simply—because of the preponderance of Georgians in Washington, it’s a fact of business life in Georgia. And it has broad implications in administering government and in the practice of law.

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The number of areas in which a governor of any state can truly tilt the policy of his state or modify the level of interest or emphasis of the people of his state is somewhat limited.

One of the areas where I would like for my administration to attempt to have a meaningful impact is in broadening our involvement in international commerce.

I have found that in some respects foreign business leaders have a more objective, detached view of the American economy than we do.

The common denominator of their perception is that the Southeastern United States is the most dynamic growth market.... has the greatest economic potential of any part of this hemisphere. I don't have to tell you that we have a very favorable gathering of economic forces here involving geography.... transportation.... labor and natural resources.

I am convinced that.... potentially.... this has tremendous implications for every lawyer in Georgia.... every real estate man in Georgia.... every retailer.... and in a real sense.... every Georgian.
I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY DOUBT THAT CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE IN THIS COUNTRY DURING THE NEXT DECADE.... AND IT WILL BE CENTERED WHERE THE CLIMATE FOR DEVELOPMENT IS MOST FAVORABLE.

THERE ARE A LOT OF INGREDIENTS IN A CLIMATE FOR DEVELOPMENT. ONE OF THEM INVOLVES LAWYERS AND LAW SCHOOLS.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS WERE TO HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL LAW PROGRAM WITH MORE CLOUT THAN OURS.... THEY PROBABLY WILL PRODUCE BETTER TRAINED LAWYERS IN INTERNATIONAL MATTERS.

THAT PROBABLY WOULD TRANSLATE INTO A MORE SOPHISTICATED INTERNATIONAL LAW PRACTICE AND SMOOTHER LEGAL TRANSACTIONS IN TEXAS.... AND IF A EUROPEAN INVESTOR WANTED TO TRANSFER AND INVEST CAPITAL IN THIS COUNTRY.... THAT WOULD BE ONE OF THE INGREDIENTS IN THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE.

IF A $100 MILLION INVESTOR FINDS TEXAS A MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT THAN GEORGIA.... THEN TEXAS' GAIN IS OUR LOSS.... AS GEORGIA LAWYERS.... AS A PART OF THE GEORGIA BUSINESS COMMUNITY.... AND AS GEORGIA PEOPLE.

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This is one of the reasons I am so pleased with the proposal which is being developed to establish an international law center in our law school.

We have two great resources which make this center a logical and realistic goal. Both are great repositories of information and wisdom. One is our extensive library collection in international and comparative law..., and the other is Dean Rusk.

I can't think of a more clever way... and perhaps not a more appropriate or practical way for us to exact from him even more public service for his native State than for this international center to be called the Dean Rusk Center.

Professor Rusk has committed his name to this center in the interest of international understanding and world peace..., and toward the additional objectives of a finer law school and a better Georgia, I am pleased to commit my support to make this center one that is truly worthy of its great name.

The final point I want to mention is the need to demonstrate our interest in the law school by supporting the law school fund.

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I think all of us will acknowledge that during the last two years we have not been able to increase the state support for the University System to the level most of us would have preferred. This was simply because of revenue shortfalls and the resource requirement for keeping critical services going.

For the coming fiscal years, we do have moderate increases budgeted. This will help.

But, I think it's fair to say that the distinction between a reasonably good law school and a law school of true excellence can be measured by the level of its private support... that support which it gets beyond tax dollars.

I am not at all sure that the private support for our law school has grown as fast as the law practices of its graduates. But it seems to me that there should be some relationship.

I am probably preaching to the converted in talking to those of you who are here today... but I hope all of us will renew our commitment to this law school and give some thought to its contributions to our personal careers and to our State.

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In closing... I would like to make the observation that the law school in which my contemporaries and I studied is now a fairly small part of the physical plant of the Georgia Law School. I suspect there are more students in one class than there were in the entire law school when I was here. The present library is probably ten times the size of the one we used.

And now we are talking about further expansion. I applaud this growth... and this change... but I can't resist saying that what I remember best and value most about our law school is something which I would describe in a general way as a special sense of purpose and a feeling that there was some kind of kinship and shared responsibility between Georgia... and the Georgia Law School and that all of us had in a small way an obligation to that relationship.

As our law school grows in size... in recognition and stature... I hope that those of us who remember it as the little brick building with the scales of justice on top can always identify our law school by that spirit.