

TRIBUTE FOR A. LEO LEVIN

WARREN E. BURGERT†

I first became acquainted with A. Leo Levin more than a dozen years ago when Congress created what came to be known as the Hruska Commission, chaired by Senator Roman Hruska of Nebraska, to study the operations of the federal court system. This followed the study by the Freund Committee on the operations and workload of the Supreme Court. I was asked for recommendations for a Staff Director and joined with others to recommend A. Leo Levin for that position. That Commission in general followed the recommendations of the Freund Committee and included in its report the recommendation that there be some means of reducing the caseload of the Supreme Court. Later, I met with a group of leaders of the bench and bar and recommended that we have a Conference to review the seminal speech of Roscoe Pound under the title of "Causes of Popular Dissatisfaction with the Administration of Justice" which he made to the American Bar Association in 1906. That program developed and for three days about three hundred representative leaders of the bench and bar and others including economists, sociologists, and law professors met; what is now known as the "Pound Revisited Report" or "Pound Report" was the result. The gathering included such distinguished names as: Griffin Bell, Robert H. Bork, Senator Slade Gorton, Erwin Griswold, Charles Halpern, Herman Kahn, Wade H. McCree, Jr., Robert B. McKay, Maurice Rosenberg, and Justice Walter V. Schaefer. As with all things of this kind, there was no immediate action but a number of improvements have been made as a result of that gathering.

Later, when a vacancy occurred in the office of Director of the Federal Judicial Center, the research and development and educational arm of the Judicial Branch, my experience working with Leo Levin led me to recommend his appointment to that position, an appointment made by the Board of Directors of the Center which is chaired by the Chief Justice of the United States. He served as Director for ten years during which the research, the development, and the educational programs were expanded. Leo Levin's contribution

† Chairman of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution; Chief Justice of the United States (1969-1986).

will have a lasting impact on the operations of the federal court system.