

But intermixed with the profound was a generous amount of the casual and humorous. One served the other in delightful and effective ways. The combination of wit and wisdom, the unusual turn of a phrase, the sense of reserved strength behind all that he said made him a welcomed speaker upon any occasion.

In public affairs Pierce Butler was a recognized leader. He was active in politics but unconstrained by party affiliation. Typical of his service to this community was his chairmanship of the recent committee on Civic Improvement, the effects of which will be felt here for many decades.

But diversified as his interests were, it was in the law that Mr. Butler found his fullest expression and his greatest satisfaction. Its scope provided a wide field for his talents. In practice he was a wise counsellor in personal and corporate affairs. In the court-room he was an effective advocate and trial lawyer. Native ability and acquired skill, combined with unquestioned integrity, brought him many clients, and placed him high in the regard of both Bench and Bar.

Yet for Pierce Butler the law was not confined to its application in the day to day affairs of men. It was not merely a code for getting things done, but was in its essence a summation of eternal human values. The law was not an expedient; rather, as was said by an early Justice in the Year Books, "the law is that which is right." He was concerned with the foundations upon which it rests.

It is not surprising, therefore, that his great and growing interest through the years was in Constitutional Law. He sought out the principles which underlie human rights and accepted them as imperative guides for action. He was led by this process beyond the immediate in time and place to international affairs and problems of permanent world order. He diagnosed humanity's malaise and sought, through pre-established legal and constitutional means, to prevent its eruption into war. Impressed with the success of the American Constitution through delegation of matters of broad and common concern to a federated agency of limited powers, he looked for a like instrumentality in international affairs, and found it in the United World Federalist movement. To this project he devoted much of his talent and time, speaking and writing widely throughout the country. He served once as Chairman of its Executive Committee. Conscious as he was of the practical difficulties involved, he believed that now was the time to organize the nations for peace as the only alternative to chaos. His participation in debate lifted public thought on world order to a high level.

Pierce Butler lived fully for sixty-four years. With an heroic heart and a strong will he strove diligently, he sought earnestly, he found much, and he never surrendered. He will be remembered always as a genial friend, an able lawyer, a dedicated citizen and a valiant soul.