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MYRES McDOUGAL

BRUNSON MACCHESNEY*

It is an honor and a privilege to participate in this well-deserved tribute to Professor Myres McDougal in connection with the launching of the *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*. There could not be a more appropriate dedication.

This is not the occasion to attempt to analyze and appraise the theories, policy preferences, and methodology of one of the most influential international legal scholars of our time. Suffice it to say that he and his able collaborators have developed, in a notable series of books and collected essays, a comprehensive framework for dealing seriously with the crucial issues of world order. Within that comprehensive framework is to be found a wealth of valuable information indicative of the immense industry of Professor McDougal and his co-authors.

Professor McDougal's approach is interdisciplinary, drawing valuable insights from all relevant sources of learning, especially the social sciences. Although McDougal has collaborated with a number of distinguished scholars, it is noteworthy that the same approach is to be found in each work. There can be no question of the decisive impact of these works on the thought of his time. All of us have been enriched and stimulated by them.

Not having been one of his students, my knowledge of his skills as a classroom teacher is necessarily second hand. But the many devoted former students who are now making outstanding contributions of their own are eloquent testimony to his effectiveness and widespread influence. I have, however, had the opportunity to observe over many years the time, attention, and interest he has taken in his graduate students, who have similarly, through his help and counsel, taken their place in the company of international lawyers. Finally, somewhat by chance, I learned the hard way of his "comprehensive" approach to class assignments. In the summer of 1955, when circumstances beyond his control prevented him from teaching a course in international law at the University of Chicago, Dean Levi persuaded me to take over Myres' course on 24 hours notice. I found, to my consternation, that he had already assigned the first 200 pages for the first day! Needless to say, I soon managed to adopt a less "comprehensive" approach!

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Nor should his contributions to professional meetings be overlooked. Over the years, he has consistently enlivened the discussions at every meeting which he attended. When there appeared to be a lull, Myres would intervene with his characteristic vigor, usually commencing by characterizing what had previously been said as "unorganized nonsense." He would then proceed to redefine the problem within his own methodology and provide a "proper" answer. His interventions were invariably provocative and stimulating and although, at first blush, might seem somewhat overwhelming and intimidating, were always offered in a friendly spirit and with good humor.

Last but by no means least is his capacity for friendship. His warmth and kindness have won him a host of friends. He once recounted the saying that if you had a Bulgarian as a friend, you didn't need any enemies. To turn the saying around somewhat, if one has Myres as a friend, one learns what friendship can mean.

In closing, may I say that it has been a rare privilege to claim Myres as a friend, and it is a great pleasure to acknowledge my gratitude and express my admiration and affection for him as a scholar and as a man.