

## INVOCATION

The University of Notre Dame and the College of Law are to be congratulated on this symposium, which is both a religious and a patriotic endeavor. It is religious in that it goes back to God as the Author of Order and Law; it is patriotic in that it seeks to restore the fundamental philosophy of Law upon which the founders of our country rested the rights of our citizens.

There were other philosophies of law in existence when our country came into being, and the founding fathers were well aware of them. In fact, it was to escape from the tyrannies which they engendered that our ancestors sought a home in America. The indictment of tyranny in our Declaration of Independence is based squarely on the recognition of God's Order in the universe, His Divine Providence, and His Justice.

In the course of the many decades since our independence was declared, and since the Constitution was set up to protect our God-given rights against the encroachments of civil government, dry-rot has afflicted our jurisprudence, and some of the alien philosophies which our forefathers fled have found willing protagonists here in America. So much is this the case that the very existence of the Natural Law is challenged, even in the highest courts of the land. What five men think is the will, or even the whim of people, may come to have the force of statute. The "divine right of kings" was not a more pernicious doctrine.

The Notre Dame College of Law has done a great thing for our country by instituting this symposium. Some one must challenge the false philosophy that has taken hold of our schools of law and our courts. If we let it go longer, there will be no liberty for us to defend. I congratulate you and I ask God to bless your deliberations.

✠ MOST REV. JOHN F. O'HARA, C.S.C.

*Bishop of Buffalo*

*Honorary Chairman*

*First Natural Law Institute Proceedings*