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# Dedication of the Law Building

Notre Dame Law Review Editors

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## DEDICATION OF THE LAW BUILDING

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On October 7, 1930, Notre Dame's Law Building was dedicated by exercises held in the reading room of the new home of the College of Law. His Eminence, Patrick Cardinal

Hayes, was induced by the Reverend Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C., President of the University, to take part in the ceremonies.



Rev. Charles L. O'Donnell, C. S. C., and His Eminence, Patrick Cardinal Hayes at the dedication of the Law Building.

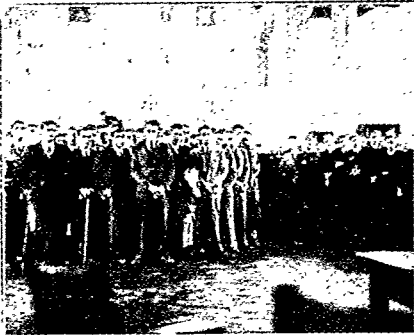
In presenting His Eminence, Cardinal Hayes, the President of the University explained that plans for a more formal dedication of the Law Building had been under consideration, but that, when it was

learned His Eminence's party was to stop at Notre Dame, it was felt that the Law Building could not be dedicated under more happy auspices than those which this very occasion presented. After all, Father O'Donnell said, a formal dedication would probably have followed traditional lines. There would have been a distinguished gathering representing the Bench and the Bar, there would have been formal addresses, there would have been some set entertainment. No amount of planning, however, could have brought a Prince of the Church into such a programme. Therefore, the University, and the College of Law particularly, considered themselves fortunate indeed to have in their midst this distinguished prelate who had graciously consented, without any special preparation for the occasion, not only to give to this beautiful structure the ritual blessing of the Church.

but also to address the faculty of the University and the assembled students of the College of Law.

His Eminence said in part:

"Law in its true mission of polar star of mankind is such a thing that it must proceed from God, and if it does not it is opposed to His will. Law cannot force the will, and where it tries you will find full jails and prisons. A law which violates a natural law is an attack upon the natural law. Law



Members of the University Faculty and assembled students of the College of Law at the dedication exercises.

means self control and recognition of the rights that God gave to man.

"Justice itself alone is not enough. The love of charity is a higher law. To have real justice one must have charity—the love of one's fellow men. That is what is being taught at Notre Dame.

"I think today we are more in need than ever of something that will take

us back to the fundamental concept of law. We must get back to the foundation. Law is the guide post showing the right and the wrong paths, much as the magnetic poles guide the mariner. To ignore the fundamental law is not achieving freedom. It is insane. To obey the principles of law is to conserve liberty. Hence the importance of the right notion of law.

"God, the Supreme Court, wrote the greatest laws, the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, and He gave man a conscience to sit in judgment upon his obedience to those fundamental rules of living. Man makes laws only in the sense of penal regulations. The source of fundamental law is Sinai and the Beatitudes. That is the law that persuades the will. Man made law was to force the will, and it has done it at the cost of jails and prisons.



LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

"A university student is a privileged student. He has received a talent and we have to expect he is going to use it. The most essential thing in America today is a sound public opinion, and the university bred man has failed in his mission and betrayed his training if he does not contribute to the creation of a sound public opinion. He must be true to a lofty ideal. An ideal is not always arrived at, because you are going to run into the human average all the time. But without an ideal to aim at we would not get anywhere.

"If we have the right conception of law, it means self-control. For law, after all, is only a light to guide us. Penalties are in excrescence of the law. Loyalty viewed, truly understood, is the light. It is what the polar star is to the mariner—the light to guide him. He is free to ignore the light. He is free to run on the rocks. But what is freedom? We are living at a time when some appear to take that view and call that freedom. But we call it insanity. By obeying the law that is the light, man is conserving his living. He is living by obeying. We do not build the law when we simply make laws. Christ said, not only be just to every man but love him. That is charity. That is the greatest fundamental of the law."