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WITHOUT APOLOGY*

The Legal Profession has become oppressively apologetic since the war. Every bar association convention produces a crop of ovations to justify the lawyer's existence, to prove—at least to himself—his usefulness in war as in peace, to bolster his faith in his calling. Is it so with the other professions? Doctors, engineers and accountants spend no time telling each other that their work is worth while in wartime. They have reason to know it—*res ipsa loquitur*—war puts them in special demand. And so lawyers, by contrast, are all too likely to feel slighted, disturbed and uncertain.

Undoubtedly the armed forces have more frequent need to apply the science of medicine, engineering and mathematics than to apply the science of law. The conduct of war is pre-eminently practical. It is "law unto itself", with little or no dependence on the theoretical principles pursuant to which society regulates its peace-time affairs. On the other hand, war is wholly dependent on the practical and natural sciences according to which planes fly, ships float and shells explode—according to which wounds are made and healed.

This, therefore, is the distinction that lawyers should cherish: The science of law is man-made, and rests in their hands for improvement and perfection. The research chemist may discover new principles, develop new uses, but he must take his science as he finds it. He cannot change the rules. On the other hand, the legal profession—at the bar, on the bench, and in legislative and administrative service—faces the endless task of building and rebuilding the science of the law, in order that the ever-changing needs and demands of society may be met with increasing dispatch and precision, and always with even-handed justice.

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Here is no simple task, but one which calls for talent of the highest order, and broad vision. As in the past, when peace comes, no other profession will be more essential—more vital—to the welfare and progress of the nation; and then the bar will be afforded the opportunity of contributing, as never before, to the lasting solution of the problems with which a disorganized post-war world will be faced.

In the meantime, it is fitting that those lawyers who can should serve with the armed forces in the various legal and extra-legal capacities available to them, and that the rest of the profession should continue, without apology, to perform its multitudinous duties in the maintenance of a sound home front.