

# Memorial Proceedings

*for*

## William F. Odell

(1878-1956)

**Carver County Courthouse**

**Chaska, Minnesota**

**October 16, 1956**

**THE CLERK:** In regard to the memorial of the late William F. Odell.

**THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. FLYNN:** Members of the Family of William F. Odell, members of the Bar, and Ladies and Gentlemen.

As you know, it is customary in the Eighth Judicial District to hold a memorial for deceased members of the Bar, and this morning we are gathered here to pay honor and tribute to the memory of one of the leading lawyers in the State of Minnesota who was held in high esteem among members of the Bar and in his own community, the late William F. Odell, who passed away a short time ago.

William F. Odell was a man who exemplified the true definition of a lawyer, for he was not only thoroughly versed in the law but also capably adept in the trial of any lawsuit. Here was a man who possessed all of the necessary qualifications of his chosen profession to acquit himself admirably both as a counselor and as an advocate, and few lawyers indeed appeared in court with their cases so well prepared and presented them so clearly as the late William F. Odell.

He was an intelligent man, and humble as well, and he possessed the unique characteristic of being inordinately democratic for one possessing such outstanding capabilities. His office door was always open to a young lawyer seeking legal advice, and I well remember and appreciated the assistance he extended to me personally on more than one occasion during the early years of my law practice.

Younger members of the Bar of this District could well afford to emulate this lawyer who practiced his profession with integrity as a student of the law, and who added dignity and respect to the trial of any lawsuit.

It is fortunate that in leaving a splendid family there are two fine sons, Wallace and William, both present in court here today, both members of the Chaska Bar and the Eighth Judicial District Bar, and who incidentally are well equipped to carry on in the footsteps of their illustrious father.

The passing of William F. Odell has been a distinct loss to the community in which he lived, and the Bar of this District. This man will be missed in the legal fraternity, for his great knowledge of the law played an important part in the making of decisions in the courts of this state over many years. The Bar of the State of Minnesota has lost one of its leading advocates, the people of this community have lost a splendid citizen, and we have all lost a wise counselor and a true friend.

The President of the Eighth Judicial District Bar Association is present

here in court today, a practicing attorney of New Prague, Minnesota, and I would like to call upon Attorney C. L. Nelson at this time.

**ATTORNEY C. L. NELSON:** With the Court's permission, Members of the Decedent's Family, members of the Bar, and Ladies and Gentlemen.

As President of the Bar Association it was our function to make arrangements for the memorial services to be held here this morning. I cannot help but comment on the fact that every single lawyer approached, the Judges, our Congressman, Members of the Supreme Court, were all most eager and willing to participate in this tribute to the decedent.

This morning here we seek to record permanently in the records of this court our tribute not just to the memory of the decedent but to the decedent himself.

It isn't my function as a member of the Bar Association or as President of it to take extensive part in the memorial tribute. I am only going to comment on the personal contact I had with the decedent.

For a period of six years, from 1933 to 1939, I personally was in government service in connection with government real estate work in the handling of farm loans and home loans. The decedent, William F. Odell, was one of over three hundred lawyers in this state who were doing the field work, who were representing the people under distressed conditions, under very small fees, in complicated work involving the field of legal work and the multiplicity of the difficult government regulations. It was tedious work and it was hard, but among the lawyers on our staff in the state of over three hundred lawyers the work of the decedent was above reproach. I can't recall personally a single instance over this six-year period when it was ever necessary to go to his office and dig up work that hadn't been done or to criticize work that had been sent in erroneously completed. It reached the point where we even used the decedent as a troubleshooter in other nearby counties where the situation was not that happy.

A few years later, seventeen years ago to be exact, I entered this district as a practicing lawyer at New Prague, and from that time on my contacts with the decedent were those of opponent in the courtroom or the other usual contacts that one country lawyer has with another in cases which never reach court, and in all those instances I found that the same attention to detail which he had applied to his government work carried over into his normal everyday practice. Any lawyer who ever went into court against the decedent in the expectation that he might not be prepared was due for a great surprise. I personally know of many lickings

which he gave to other lawyers, and I know of none which he himself received which could be called a licking.

I add this personal tribute to the decedent and to his memory and ask that it be made a part of the permanent record.

**THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. FLYNN:** Mr. John A. Fahey, who is immediate past President of the Bar Association of the Eighth Judicial District is present here in court today, and he is a practicing attorney in Chaska, and I would like to call upon Mr. John A. Fahey at this time.

**ATTORNEY JOHN A. FAHEY:** If the Court please, the Odell Family, fellow members of the Bar, and Ladies and Gentlemen.

I consider it a distinct privilege to be permitted to say a few words here this morning in honor of the memory of the late W. F. Odell, and although I am a different generation lawyer than Mr. Odell, I feel that I have known him for many years, because at one time he was in the practice of law here in Chaska with my father as a partner, and for as long as I can remember in our household when I was but a school boy I heard my father talk about Mr. Odell and about his abilities and his talents and what a fine and intelligent individual he was, of his having a profound knowledge of the intricacies and pitfalls of the law, and his being on top of every legal problem that ever confronted him, and I grew up to respect him as a lawyer. Although I scarcely knew him at first, and when I did get to know him when I entered the practice of law to stay here in Chaska after World War II, I became intimately acquainted with him, and I became more to respect him for his abilities, as I, like Mr. Nelson was, shall I say, unfortunate to be on the opposite side of several legal matters with him, and I feel that it is useless for me to stand here and eulogize Mr. Odell as a great lawyer, for we must all acknowledge that he was that, and therefore I am going to take just a few minutes to review briefly his lifetime.

Mr. Odell was born here in the City of Chaska on July 8, 1878. He attended the public schools here in Chaska, and he graduated from Central High School in St. Paul. Thereafter he went to the University of Minnesota where he was graduated in 1900 with honors. He then returned here to Chaska and studied law in the office of his father, W. C. Odell, where he remained until 1904 when he was admitted to the Bar of the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Odell then for a short time went into Sibley County, to Arlington, and during the short stay that he was in that county he was elected to the office of County Attorney and to the office of Judge of Probate.

He then returned to Carver County, and in the year 1914 he was elected to the office of County Attorney, at that time defeating my father for that office, and he remained in the office of County Attorney for seven years, when he resigned and my father then succeeded him to that office. Mr. Odell remained then here in Chaska in the practice of law until he died, and as I said previously, in the '20's he became a partner of my father for a number of years. After that partnership was dissolved he and my father always remained close friends.

Mr. Odell was preceded in death by his wife who died in November of 1950, and he is survived by five sons, two of them, William and Wallace, who are practicing law here in Chaska, George, of Minneapolis, David of Fort Ord, California, Richard, also of Chaska, and a daughter, Mrs. Vernon Bruhn, of Waconia, and I think that I, perhaps more than of the lawyers here today, miss Mr. Odell since his departure for I saw him nearly every day, having practiced law just down the hall from him in the Klein Brothers building, and I sincerely miss his familiar figure in the hall, the cheery "hello" that he used to give me, and the constant hum that used to indicate to me that he was indulged in or engaged in some complicated legal problem, and I miss the opportunity of seeking the advice that he was so willing to give me on matters that were beyond my horizons, and I think that now during the football season I miss the Monday morning post-mortems when we used to talk about the previous Saturday's football game, for Mr. Odell had, as his sons have today, an avid interest in the Minnesota football situation, and he was in my book one of the better downtown quarterbacks.

In conclusion I would like to say that Mr. Odell was to me the epitome of a practicing lawyer, and a gentleman, and I think that as a mark of the respect in which he was held that it is worthy to mention that rarely did you hear him called "Bill", or "William", whether it was layman or lawyer, but usually it was, "Mr. Odell", and I know that in losing Mr. Odell we have lost an outstanding legal mind and a good friend, one who, as Judge Flynn has said, was always willing to help the young lawyer, and I am grateful indeed for the opportunity of putting into the record here in District Court my understanding and my thoughts and my memory of Mr. Odell. Thank you.

**THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. FLYNN:** Mr. Martin Stahlke, the Carver County Attorney, a practicing lawyer of Chaska, is present here in court today, and I would like to call upon him at this time.

**ATTORNEY MARTIN L. STAHLKE:** May it please the Court, Members of the Odell Family, Members of the Bar, and Friends.

I wish to thank this Court too, Judge Flynn and Judge Haering, for giving me this opportunity to pay respect and admiration to the late W. F. Odell. I cherish this opportunity particularly because I counted myself as a close personal friend of Mr. Odell. During the years that we practiced in this community as attorneys I had many occasions to visit with him, to discuss points of law, to discuss other matters, and on occasion just to visit with him. During all these visits I always found him as a friendly and as a courteous and kind and understanding man. He was willing at any time to talk or to discuss any problems that I might have, and he was known far and wide in the State of Minnesota, and beyond the bounds of the State of Minnesota, as a man of profound learning, and his great ability as a lawyer. His advice always reflected his great learning and his many years of experience with the law. To be counted as a friend to such a man is indeed a satisfaction that one rarely experiences in this life. I personally have benefitted greatly from my association with Mr. Odell.

He was also greatly respected among the Members of the Bar, and by members of our community, standing as a man who always believed in justice for every one. He was a lawyer who left the facts as he found them and applied the law as it should be applied, never sacrificing principle for pecuniary gain. He showed respect for the Court, for the orders and decrees of the Court, and had no time for anyone who got the notion to violate any orders of the Court.

He appeared in this courtroom many times, and it was always a pleasure to listen to the great arguments of Mr. Odell to the jury and to the Court, and his memory will live in this courtroom and in this community for many years.

**THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. FLYNN:** Attorney O. S. Vesta, of Arlington, who has practiced his profession in this district for a good many years, is present in court today, and I would like to call upon Mr. Vesta at this time.

**ATTORNEY O. S. VESTA:** If it please the Court, Members of the Odell Family, and friends, and Members of the Bar.

I wish to thank the committee for the privilege of saying a few words as we honor the memory of a great man, a scholar, and a true christian gentleman, and one of the outstanding lawyers of this district.

It was my privilege to know Mr. Odell since 1913. At that time he was engaged in the practice of law at Arlington. He had been elected Judge of Probate of Sibley County in the fall of 1912. The courthouse was then in the City of Henderson, and I was employed at the time in the City of St. Paul, and word came to me that he was offering his library and office

furniture and fixtures for sale. I was looking for a location at the time, and I immediately got in touch with Mr. Odell, and he met me at Arlington on the 24th of January, 1913. We made a deal, and in connection with the deal he assigned to me some of the unfinished legal work that he had pending. We had many meetings in connection with that unfinished business, and I was in the unique position of being privileged to meet with Mr. Odell on many occasions at that time.

His first wife died on August 11, 1912, and when I first met Mr. Odell he appeared to be a very lonely and sad man, and was eager for companionship. He had given up his private practice, and his official duties were not particularly pressing at the time. Consequently we spent a great many hours just visiting.

At these meetings I was able to get in closer touch with Mr. Odell than would have been possible in purely business matters, and I learned to know his interests, his likes and his dislikes, and his ideals.

In his profession he was thorough, and diligent in his investigations, calm and free from excitement in his deliberations. His intellectual tastes were cultivated and refined. In his judgment of others he was kind and considerate.

To illustrate this, I recall one time being in his court with a case involving a man, who had spent most of his time becoming intoxicated, and had many quarrels with his neighbors, and as a result had lost the respect of his community. After the hearing Mr. Odell said, "I have known this man for many years, and represented him in several legal matters, but," he said, "I found that there was a lot of good in this man that never came to the surface. He had a high respect for religion, and there was a moral fiber in his make-up that most people never recognized." He said, "If I had to write his epitaph I believe I would quote a quotation that I recently read," and he said this:

*In men who men pronounce as ill,  
I find so much of goodness still,  
In men who men pronounce divine,  
I find so much of sin and blot,  
I hesitate to draw a line between the two  
where God hath not."*

I liked that quotation so well I asked him for it and memorized it, and I have since had the privilege of quoting it a great many times.

There was much in the life of Mr. Odell to engender a feeling of pride. His

great learning, his native ability, the high esteem that he was held in by all who knew him, would have a natural tendency to make some people feel proud of their accomplishments. That was not true of Mr. Odell. One thing that characterized his life was a deep sense of humility. In his life he exemplified that verse in the 14th Chapter of Luke:

*“Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased,  
and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”*

He respected humility in others, and in one of his philosophical moods referred to that quality in Lincoln’s life, and he said, “I was very fond of Lincoln’s favorite poem,” and he quoted to me a couple of verses of that poem. I have since found it in a book on the life of Lincoln.

*“Oh why should the spirit of mortal be proud?  
Like a swift fleeting meteor, a fast flying cloud,  
A flash of lightning, a break in the wave,  
He passeth from life to his rest in the grave.*

*The leaves of the oak and the willow shall fade,  
Be scattered about and together be laid,  
The young and the old, the low and the high,  
Shall molder to dust and together shall he.”*

The honor and glamor of high public office did not appeal to him. He sought and found the true values of life, and was not interested in the artificial. I have always felt that his philosophy of life was very beautifully expressed in these words from Gray’s Elegy in a Country Churchyard:

*“The boast of heraldry, the pomp of pow’r  
And all that beauty, all that wealth e’er gave,  
Awaits alike the inevitable hour:  
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.”*

**THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. FLYNN:** Frank O’Malley, former Assistant United States Attorney in St. Paul, and one who has been practicing his profession in the City of Glencoe for a number of years is present in court today, and I would like to call upon him at this time.

**ATTORNEY FRANK T. O’MALLEY:** May it please the Court, Judge Murphy, Members of the Odell Family, brother lawyers, and distinguished laity.

It seems this day is well chosen for this memorial to one who loved each and all of the manifestations of nature. This month of October is symbolic of maturity, ripe and rich maturity, although frequently subdued, quiet and



soft toned and full of harmony. So, too, was the deceased, whose memory we honor.

Almost every one among the older members of the Bar called him “Billy Odell!”. I always called him “Counsel”, for he was a perfect counsel, safe, informed, dependable, self-effacing and solid. Yes, he also had ripe and rich maturity with subdued, quiet and soft tones full of harmony. Many lawyers profited from his counsel, for he was a lawyer’s lawyer.

Perhaps his greatest strength and richness was in his economy of words. His thoughts were straight and direct. His logic cut straight across the chaff of words employed by the opposition. His words were also straight and direct.

At the memorial for Mr. Charles Quandt, he said in part, and I am quoting now: “Over the years I have had something of an aversion to public speaking. Speaking with me has been merely something to use in the course of my work as a practicing lawyer. But there are rare occasions when I have got to forget that and I feel under an obligation at this time to pay my respects in such way as I can to our late departed brother Mr. Quandt.” That is the end of the quotation.

Public office sought him. He never sought it. Always he answered every call to service, public or private, without regard to money or acclaim, for he was self-effacing to an extremely rare degree. He was indeed counsel without fear or favor.

There are others to speak today more intimately and in detail of his honors and his life at home. I shall miss him as the counsel who used his words and his voice merely in the course of his work as a practicing lawyer. Those few words were wise words. His eyes were eloquent indeed. His smile was a joy to accompany his eyes. All lawyers who sought his advice profited. We are all better for his consistent adherence to all high standards of professional conduct. Counsel, we all indeed do honor ourselves by honoring your memory on this occasion, and we say to those who remain behind, “we shall emulate and profit by your ripe and rich maturity as counsel for the lawyers in this district all the days to come to us.”

May it please the Court, I respectfully move that this and other memorials that may be offered upon this occasion by this committee appointed by the President, C. L. Nelson, may be spread upon the minutes of this Court as a permanent record of this occasion, in memory of our brother lawyer, William F. Odell, and that, in the discretion of the Court, copies be sent to the family of the deceased.

**THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. FLYNN:** Judge Arlo E. Haering, of Waconia, has recently been assigned to hold court in the City of St. Paul by our excellent Chief Justice Roger Dell, and he has very kindly adjourned court for this morning and has come here to pay tribute to his friend, the deceased, and I would like to call upon Judge Arlo E. Haering at this time.

**THE HONORABLE ARLO E. HAERING:** May it please the Court, Members of the Odell Family, and Relatives, Justice Murphy, Congressman O'Hara, Members of the Bar, Members of the Jury who were here present, and friends of the decedent.

It is with a keen sense of humility and also with considerable emotion that I attempt to make any comment about the friend who has departed.

Too, my recollection of Mr. Odell, much as with Mr. Fahey, goes back to the days of my childhood when my good father and mother told me of the wonderful things about Mr. Odell, and from that time on he seemed like a beacon of light, something to look up to, something to hope and strive for to attain some of the great attributes that he possessed.

It was some years after finishing my high school education here at Chaska, and after having chosen to study law, that I found it necessary to call upon someone to give a recommendation that I might take the State Bar examination to determine my qualifications to be admitted to the Bar, and then, although of a humble beginning, and certainly under circumstances which Mr. Odell had no reason to expect that I might be the proper kind of a person to have the privilege of being admitted to the Bar, he nevertheless granted me the favor of giving the necessary affidavit as to my character and qualifications.

Following that—and I enumerate these things merely to display the kind of man he was—when looking for a location to practice my chosen profession I went back here to Mr. Odell and talked with him about the advisability of locating at Waconia. Now, at that time, and for many years Waconia had been a great source of income to Mr. Odell because he had many, many loyal clients in that whole territory, but as a display of the unselfishness on his part he suggested and recommended that I locate there, and when I did locate there he went further to this extent that although he was then the appointed City Attorney for the City of Waconia, he resigned that position and recommended to the Council that they appoint me to represent the city.

Following that he and I had many personal associations together, not only as opposing counsel, but on many occasions acting on the same side,

and it was my extreme pleasure to spend at least ten days with him sharing a hotel room at Walker, Minnesota, during the trial of a lawsuit there. During those ten days he and I became very, very close and shared many intimate thoughts and experiences.

Those days shall never be forgotten, and I have reason to believe that neither did he forget them down to his last days here on earth, for he was always so glad to have me call at his office, and no matter how busy he was, he would drop whatever he was doing, and invite me in and give as much time as I cared to use to talk over the things of the day, talk over my personal problems, and to give me any help or aid or assistance that he could.

He not only did that, but I confess to having experienced the difficulty of having made errors in legal matters which he observed, and without any obligation on his part whatsoever, except that of he being a man of a great sense of honor, having him call the error to my attention, thereby saving me considerable embarrassment. You wonder why I feel as I do about our friend.

Mr. Odell expressed wisdom if ever anyone did, and wisdom with the principles expounded by Plato as follows:

*“Wisdom: The principle of doing things right.  
Justice: The principle of doing things  
equally in public and private.  
Fortitude: The principle of not fleeing  
danger but meeting it.  
Temperance: The principle of subduing desires  
and living moderately.”*

He having possessed wisdom with every one of those essential elements, thereby he became one of the stalwart characters and one of the stalwart members of this profession.

I can so well recall a friend of his saying to me one day, and this was during his lifetime, when commenting on his thoroughness and his absolute integrity, saying in these words, “that turning a matter over to Mr. Odell for representation is like putting money in the bank”. I thought many times how simply and yet how profoundly those words express what we all thought of him.

He wasn't a big man in stature, but by reason of his qualities, abilities, character and profound wisdom in the law, he was like a Rock of Gibraltar upon whom his many clients, friends and associates would rely with the

utmost of confidence, that when the storm and turmoil of difficulties would subside they would be safe within the harbor protected by the might of his wisdom.

I know he knew what the joy of success was, and to him it wasn't a matter of gold but it was the human happiness that he left here for his friends and associates and clients to enjoy, and as said one time by an unknown author:

*“When sunset falls upon your day  
And fades from out the west,  
When business cares are put away  
And you lie down to rest,  
The measure of the day's success,  
Or failure may be told  
In terms of human happiness,  
And not in terms of gold.”*

Yes, he left much human happiness, because he made right conquer as it should, and thereby he did spread joy upon his many friends, because he showed them the right.

I sadly recall my last visit with him when he went on to relate the uselessness of any further hope, knowing full well that the end was near, when he related the many happy experiences in his life, of winning the battles which seemed so difficult, but how satisfied he was that in his heart he knew right had prevailed, whether on his side or the other, and how he then hoped for my success, and how his thought was then not of his own suffering but rather he regretted the burden that he was placing upon his family. A rather unusual thought for one in those fading moments of life when he had every reason to expect that sympathy should be with him.

And so my friends, and to you my fellow lawyers, and for myself, let us resolve today that our memorial will not only be in these words which are easily uttered and easily forgotten, but that our memorial will be in our actions and conduct as we go on and carry on in this life, for I am just as sure as there is a sun in heaven that he is well aware of what we do here today.

It has been said by our colleagues here today, “he was not a man of words, but a man of action,” and he would be pleased most by what we do and not by what we say.

I thank you for this opportunity, Judge Flynn, to express these words.

**THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. FLYNN:** Now, among some 435 members in the Congress of the United States there is no more diligent and industrious member than the Honorable Joseph P. O'Hara, of Glencoe, who represents fourteen counties in this district. This is a very busy time for him, but he has kindly consented to come down this morning at my invitation to say a few words to you.

**Mr. O'Hara.**

**THE HONORABLE JOSEPH P. O'HARA:** If it please the Court, Judge Haering, Judge Murphy, Mr. Odell's Family, and Relatives, and Members of the Bar, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have prepared some remarks which I beg your indulgence in reading them in part because it is an occasion which, as Judge Haering has said, is an emotional one for me because I truly admired and loved and respected Mr. Odell, and I think it is exceedingly fit that this day has been set aside to commemorate and memorialize the life of a great lawyer, an outstanding citizen, a wonderful father and husband, and a valued friend. It is not intended so much as a day of sorrow as it is a day for retrospection and reflection. Today fond memory is given leeway over the pressing affairs of a busy and sometimes troubled world.

Years ago a famous agnostic said that life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. In other words, he saw life as a futile meandering through a desolate desert wilderness, surrounded on all sides by cold and bitter despair.

What an unfortunate description to give to a triumphant adventure; and what a tragic lack of faith in the sublime promise of our Savior, Teacher and Master. To me, and I am sure to all of you, life has been a journey full of pleasant and worthwhile contacts, precious friendships, and hallowed and cherished memories.

Life is a journey through green valleys where we hear the murmur of the brook as it winds its way towards the sea of eternity, where man is born and attains maturity, strives and accomplishes according to his abilities and his will to attain.

In the springtime we may see the trees and plants shooting their buds, which later burst into a profusion of foliage and flowers.

In the heat of midday we may sit in the restful shade beside the brook and drink of the stream of life, contemplating the goodness and the greatness of our Creator, while before us pass in kaleidoscopic review cherished

friendships of the past, and incidents that are treasured, that are milestones in our journey through life.

As of now, in the full richness of the fall, when the golden glow is on all nature, we harvest what we have sown. It is then that we garner the fruits of our labor, and reap the blessings of well-spent lives, devoted to the service of others.

It has been well said that "Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy in this world." Certainly the members of the legal profession must and do render a great public service. Lawyers are the defenders of the precious rights which are guaranteed to us under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. To them come the troubled, the poor and the oppressed.

In a troubled world, we find them as the leaders and advocates of justice and freedom, alert to the dangers of communism, which would destroy not only our spiritual and religious freedoms but our Constitutional freedoms as well. And when I speak thusly of the lawyers, I think pre-eminently Mr. Odell was the leader in all of these things which I have mentioned.

In these troubled times there is need, great need for humane, honest, wise and courageous leadership.

I know of no lawyer over the years who was more consecrated to the practice of law than was Will Odell. His was a career that was distinguished, long and honorable—as a lawyer, as a citizen, as a father and husband. It could be honestly said that every client he ever represented received the full measure of able service, whether it was the drawing of a legal document, or a matter of legal counsel, whether it was the trial of a question of fact or law, or a presentation before an appellate court.

Will Odell would have been recognized in the great metropolitan centers of this country (had he chosen to practice law there) the same as he has been recognized by the Bar of this district and this state. Certainly wherever he practiced he was recognized for the fine lawyer that he was. Undoubtedly he felt, as I do, that the country lawyer runs a greater scale of legal and human experience and personal satisfaction.

The son of a distinguished lawyer, I am sure he enjoyed the association of his sons in the practice of law, and they indeed have been fortunate to have had in him a great teacher and preceptor.

Over the thirty-five years of my acquaintance and friendship with Will

**Odell, I have often thought that no one could serve more ably upon our State Supreme Court, yes, even upon our United States Supreme Court, than he whose memory we honor today.**

**As Mr. O'Malley has so well said, truly he was a "lawyer's lawyer". I am sure that his quick grasp of the law, and his thorough and sound analysis of both the facts and the law, were recognized by every lawyer who ever knew him.**

**He has been summoned to his reward. For him the turbulence of the forum has subsided. While he is no longer with us in the flesh, his spirit is ever with us, and the memory of his ability is an inspiration to us to carry on.**

**In this hour, and to his family, I am sure that the Christian religion of your father is a great comfort to you. The Master has promised us eternal life. We know that He has prepared a place for His children where we will some day gather and where broken family ties will be reunited, where cherished friendships shall be renewed, and that is a precious promise, and a glorious fulfillment.**

**This is a little poem from which I get a great deal of comfort.**

*Death is only a quiet door  
Set in a garden wall;  
On gentle hinges it gives, at dusk  
When the thrushes call.*

*Along the lintel are green leaves,  
Beyond the light lies still;  
Very willing and weary feet  
Go over that sill.*

*There is nothing to trouble any heart  
Nothing to hurt at all  
Death is only a quiet door,  
In an old garden wall.*

**THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. FLYNN: The Honorable William Murphy, an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Minnesota, our highest court in the state, is here to represent the Supreme Court, and I would like to call upon Justice Murphy at this time.**

**THE HONORABLE WILLIAM MURPHY: If Your Honors please, Members of the Odell Family, and Friends, Members of the Bar of the Eighth Judicial**

**District, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**May I add very briefly to the sincere and beautiful tributes which have been paid to the memory of Mr. Odell by the distinguished Members of the Bar of the Eighth Judicial District.**

**In behalf of the members of the Supreme Court of Minnesota, I join with the members of your Bar in honoring the memory of William F. Odell, and to extend to the members of his family the heartfelt sympathy of the Members of the Supreme Court.**

**William F. Odell's reputation as a lawyer of integrity and sound legal learning reached far beyond the district in which he practiced. He will be remembered by lawyers and judges throughout the state with deepest respect as a fine gentleman and a credit to his profession.**

**I thank you for this opportunity of giving our Court the chance to join in this memorial. Thank you.**

**THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. FLYNN: And now, toward the conclusion of our memorial, I deem it appropriate that we all stand and say a prayer in our way, according to whatever way you believe, say whatever prayer you wish, in memory of the deceased, William F. Odell.**

**(Whereupon the Assemblage stood for a moment of silent prayer.)**

**THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. FLYNN: It appears also that it would be appropriate, and I am going to exercise the initiative in that particular respect, and I am sure that Judge Haering joins with me, in ordering the Court Reporter to make a transcript of the proceedings had here this morning, and that a transcript be printed, copies thereof filed with the five respective Clerks of the Eighth Judicial District, and copies given to the members of the Odell Family, as well each Member of the Bar of the Eighth Judicial District.**

**————oooOooo————**

**Oliver V. Wittenberg  
District Court Reporter  
Eighth Judicial District  
Shakopee, Minnesota**

**[☐]**

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