

II. RESPONSE

JOSEPH S. MURPHY *

What can one do in dealing with a character like the distinguished President of the National Academy of Arbitrators, Mr. Lewis Gill? He said I would have two minutes. If it weren't for the fact that this is the 25th anniversary for all the members of this distinguished profession, I'd like to have equal time to talk about Gill. But it would be unfair because, after all, the organization of which I am chief executive officer and chairman of the board, the CAI (Character Assassination Institute), has such a file on Mr. Gill that I would spend the entire evening denying the rumor that he has somebody else write all of his awards. Now you may hear people say it, but I want to deny here and now the rumor and say that he does write his awards sometimes.

But enough of that. I was villified not only here but also by a distinguished past president this morning who said something about one of the things they had to do was to pay tribute to Caesar or Joe Murphy. Now an exact quotation of the official text would not be expected from an arbitrator. The point is "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's (at the coin of the realm) and to Joe Murphy the things that are his." In this respect the friendship and love and affection—this is primarily for the wives of members—that I enjoyed over the long years of association with you all is the tribute that's due to me, and I'm most delighted to have it.

All I really want to say is that I know of the difficulties you arbitrators have and the Mental Health Association's research into your problems over the years. We know too that the wonderful virtues of psychiatry have really done their job for you people. As you know, I also serve as chief psychologist and psychiatrist for the arbitration profession, and as you also know—and this is for the outside people—arbitrators are actually paranoid schizophrenics. You can understand it. Every time they make a decision, one side says, "That dirty so-and-so didn't know what he was doing. He's no good!" and of course they're hurt.

This goes on all their lives. One group is always criticizing them. Their schizophrenia comes from their home life. They go out day after day to hearings, sit there, listen seriously, take notes

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(I hope) on very important things—plant removal, a million dollars in back pay, things of this sort. There are big decisions for them to make. They feel good. They've been recognized. They're up there. They go home and into the living room, and Junior's coat is on a chair. "Take that coat out, son, will you please, and put it where it belongs." "Take it yourself." Into the kitchen and "What's for dinner, dear?" "Oh, I thought we'd open up some frozen food for tonight." You know—the letdown in this kind of thing!

However, I've tried hard and I hope that over the 25 years I have been able to make some contribution to these poor people. I have worked carefully with their wives, spending as much time as I possibly could, and I tell you that arbitrators would never exist as peaceful, normal human beings, even with all their mental problems, were it not for the love and affection and support of their wives—not to me; to them, of course.

I don't know what else I can say except that I've enjoyed myself tremendously being with you, the friendships I've had—not the enemies I've made—and the many years of close association in work that is most important. I think that all of us at the American Arbitration Association, particularly some of our young managers around here (young is when you're under 60) who are following along in the American Arbitration Association's service—protection, care, and feeding of arbitrators—all feel the same. It's been a wonderfully worthwhile job, and I thank you all very much for even letting me get up here and make a couple of remarks.

May I, in a serious conclusion, express my sincere congratulations to the Academy for their contribution to our American way of life. This contribution is not fully appreciated by the American public, but certainly is understood by the entire labor-management community.

May I express my heartfelt gratitude for the honor you bestowed on me tonight.