

HERBERT TENZER

NORMAN LAMM*

I first met Herbert Tenzer when I was a teenager; he was already acknowledged as a distinguished young attorney and an aspiring leader of the Jewish community. In the almost half century since, and until his death, I was his admirer, colleague, and friend. I miss his sage advice, his seasoned counsel, and, especially, his unconditional friendship. The decision by the editors to dedicate this volume to him gives me the opportunity to join them in paying tribute to his memory.

Herbert ("Call me 'Herbert,' 'Mr. Tenzer' was my father") served for many years on the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University, and for twelve years he was the Chairman of the Board. No president of a university could ask for a more supportive, understanding, helpful chairman.

Among the most cherished of his commitments was—the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. He was appointed by my predecessor to the committee that searched for a dean, and I joined him as a founding member of the Cardozo Board. He saw in Cardozo a synthesis of the major interests of his life—the law, the Jewish community (especially Yeshiva University), and service to America. He regarded the law as far more than a way to make a living or even as a distinguished profession. He considered it almost sacred because of its role in protecting and enhancing civilization—a precious but fragile thing—and he was, therefore, concerned with ethics and its relation to law. His commitment to Orthodox Judaism and Jewish law was genuine and translated itself into a functional way of life. And his patriotism, especially in an age when it has become suspect and fallen on bad times, was sincere, proud, and practical. His service as a member of Congress gave expression to his love of the law and his love of America.

Herbert Tenzer was not only an indefatigable worker for Yeshiva and Cardozo; he also made them the beneficiaries of his largess. He was a philanthropist, relative to his means, a great philanthropist. Amongst other things, he endowed the Herbert and Florence Tenzer Chair in Jewish Law and Ethics at Cardozo.

It is altogether fitting, therefore, that Cardozo dedicate a law

* B.A., 1949, Yeshiva College; Ordained a Rabbi, 1951, Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary; Ph.D., 1966, Bernard Revel Graduate School.

conference and this, a volume of one of its law journals, to one who so ably represented what the school and university are all about. He would have been proud of this tribute, and he would have loved it! I am sorry he is not alive to witness it.