

# HERBERT TENZER THE MAN

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I welcome this opportunity to talk briefly to you on behalf of the family of Herbert Tenzer and the firm of Tenzer, Greenblatt, Fallon & Kaplan, which he founded some fifty-seven years ago. We are all deeply honored by the dedication of this conference in his name.

To recite a litany of the accomplishments of HT (as he was known with affection by virtually all), would take up the better part of the time to which this program is dedicated. As a person, he has been honored and spoken of with accolades by numerous world and political leaders, including many past presidents, as well as religious leaders of all faiths. Perhaps a few brief quotations might best exemplify this sincerely religious man who has contributed to and been loved by people in every walk of life, whether it be business, law, politics or those who benefitted from his charitable endeavors, regardless of their race, creed, color, national origin or political affiliation. It was not uncommon in a given week to have the likes of Dr. Norman Lamm, President of Yeshiva University, Sister Rose Thering of Seton Hall University, members of Congress and Abba Eban come to the Tenzer, Greenblatt offices seeking the advise and counsel of HT.

Upon his retirement from Congress, President Lyndon Johnson wrote:

For years his voice has stirred the American conscience and his vote has advanced the American dream. . . . It is a lasting tribute to his constituents that they chose a man of such broad and inexhaustible ability to speak for them during these challenging times in our Nation's history. I commend your wisdom, even as I salute his foresight. . . . My warmest appreciation and good wishes are with him as he retires from Congress. He will be deeply missed, but affectionately remembered.<sup>1</sup>

Perhaps as important as the recognition of his accomplishments was the recognition of his personality and knowledge as expressed in a quotation entered in the Congressional Record by

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Lyndon B. Johnson, to Herbert Tenzer (Sept. 24, 1968) (on file with Tenzer, Greenblatt, Fallon & Kaplan).

former Governor Carey of New York: "He has travelled the world and has an intimate knowledge of the philosophy and problems of almost all minority groups. . . . His commendable character and personal attributes are matched only by his humbleness and modesty."<sup>2</sup>

Of the many interests that Herbert Tenzer had, and to which he importantly contributed, Cardozo Law School, of which he was a founder, was the apple of his eye, or perhaps coming from New York, his favorite "Big Apple" interest.

"Copyright in the Twenty-First Century," which is the subject of today's conference, would have been of great interest to Herbert Tenzer because this "Man for all Seasons," as a member of a House Congressional Committee, was the moving force in legislation presented for consideration to revise the copyright law which, as you know, had not substantially changed since 1909.<sup>3</sup> In the last session of Congress in which he served, he introduced legislation to further design patents.<sup>4</sup>

In the brochure setting forth this program, it was pointed out that HT's standards for the practice of the law has served as a model for the students and alumni of Cardozo. It would be the greatest memorial to him if programs such as this result in a greater benefit to the community served by all of us, in a manner sought by Herbert Tenzer that would protect the property and personal rights of all with compassion, equality and justice.

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<sup>2</sup> CONG. REC. (daily ed. July 22, 1965).

<sup>3</sup> 112 CONG. REC. 9407-09 (1966); 113 CONG. REC. 8501-02 (1967).

<sup>4</sup> 113 CONG. REC. 8179 (1967); *see also* 111 CONG. REC. 9620 (1965).