

A TRIBUTE TO REFORD BOND (1930-1989)

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Next to his daughters Alysoun and Cynthia, Reford Bond's principal interest in life was his law firm, McAfee & Taft, where he practiced for 30 years. I'm Pete Woodruff. For the last 26 of those 30 years, I was one of Reford's law partners. I've been asked to share with you today, however inadequately, something of how we at the Firm viewed Reford Bond and what he meant to us.

On one thing we all agree: you could not describe this man by reference to his law practice alone. Beyond all question, he was truly a Renaissance Man, that is, a man with far ranging interests who had become expert in many areas. Throughout his life, Reford applied insatiable curiosity and boundless energy to an incredible variety of subjects.

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Beyond our law firm walls, Reford was for all his life a student of the natural sciences, and on two levels.

First, in the abstract, he was fascinated by natural laws, for example those of physics; and particularly by mathematics. For many years, he subscribed to the Journal of Higher Mathematics, and he did more than merely subscribe. He read each issue carefully and critically, and fired off letters to the authors of papers published in the Journal where he found errors - and he did find errors!

Second, beyond the purely abstract, Reford was interested in the applied sciences as well, and especially in geology. Many of us at McAfee & Taft first heard about the tectonic plate theory - that the earth's surface is composed of moving plates-- from Reford over lunch, years before we saw any reference to it anywhere else. Until his death, Reford had a large map of the earth's tectonic plates in his office on the wall behind his desk.

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Reford was also a classical scholar, fascinated by such obscure and diverse matters as, on the one hand, the details of ancient military campaigns involving such contestants as the Greeks and the Persians, and, on the other, the Icelandic Sagas. And Reford never did anything casually. In the course of his study of the Sagas, having read everything he could find, Reford actually went to Iceland to walk the ground itself.

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But Reford was not merely a scholar, although he was unquestionably that. He was also an active participant in the kinds of competition where planning and brain power are the keys to victory: first, in sports car rallies, and during more recent years in sailboat racing as a member of the Oklahoma City Yacht Club. It is fitting to note today that last Sunday Reford was in his boat on Lake Hefner, in a race, and that he won the race.

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Within the law, Reford's interests were also varied and impressive. He began his practice as an oil and gas lawyer in the Law Department of Phillips Petroleum Company and continued that specialty in his early days at McAfee & Taft and became and remained an acknowledged expert in oil and gas matters. From there, he went on to master securities law and then become expert in corporate law. Along the way, he became fluent enough in accounting and in banking and taxation to hold his own with acknowledged experts in those areas. He used to say to his accounting counterparts when he disagreed with their views, "I'm not an accountant, but I'm an accounting philosopher," and then proceed to demonstrate a disconcertingly thorough understanding of the accounting principles involved.

By any conceivable standards, Reford's contribution to the firm as a practicing lawyer has been significant. He was a "deal" lawyer, meaning he was involved in a lot of transactions involving mergers and acquisitions, tender offers, hostile takeovers and the like. And because these kinds of projects always involve mountains of paper, Reford regarded himself as the world's foremost authority on "paper shuffling."

For two reasons, I'd like to mention one particular transaction where an enormous amount of paper was shuffled. First, Reford himself regarded it as the "highlight" of his career. Reford had many favorite clients but he was particularly fond of working for Devon Energy Corporation and its principals, John and Larry Nichols. Several years ago, Devon acquired a

major oil and gas subsidiary from Kirby Industries. The transaction involved 14 parties, including the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the world's largest shipping concern, banks located in London, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Luxembourg, Dallas, and Monroe, Louisiana, and lawyers from all of those places plus a firm in Bermuda because, for United Kingdom tax reasons, certain portions of the transactions had to be closed there. Reford prepared the Memorandum of Closings of the transactions, and this is the second reason for mentioning this project. At the bottom of the Memorandum he put "Entia Non Sunt Multiplicandum Sine Necessitate" a quote from William of Occam (b.1285-d.1349) -- meaning, roughly, that one should avoid creating numerous entities unless one absolutely must.

In my own lifetime, I have known no one but Reford who ever quoted William of Occam - or anyone other than Reford who ever heard of him.

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Apart from his work for clients, Reford's contributions to McAfee & Taft in Law Firm administration have been beyond value. He was, in fact, a principal architect of McAfee & Taft and probably had more influence upon our present make-up and MO than any other single lawyer. Reford invented our "constitution", a system of self-government by committees with initiators and expeditors assigned to responsibilities in the various areas of interest within the committees. He was responsible for our secretarial system which, as far as we know, is unique among

larger law firms in that we have no private secretaries and no word processing pool. Reford's ability to persuade senior lawyers to give up the concept of a private or personal secretary was no mean accomplishment but the system works efficiently and the cost savings are material.

Most of us here today would agree that Reford was also a computer expert. Reford would have argued that he was relatively ignorant about computer hardware. No one could question his expertise in the area of computer languages, however. When he died, Reford was in the midst of developing an extensive and sophisticated office automation system for our firm. Much of it is currently up and running, such as electronic mail, docketing, calendars, scheduling, accounting and time record keeping. Unfortunately, much remains to be done, such as file retrieval, improved litigation support and enhanced forms systems. We will miss Reford greatly as we go forward with this project.

And one footnote about Reford's supposed ignorance of computer hardware. There are those of us in the firm who remember that in the 1960's, Reford built a sports car rally computer with his own hands beginning with printed circuitry purchased at a war surplus store, unlabeled circuitry which Reford explained he had, for fun, analyzed and determined was originally used for shipboard fire control by the Navy.

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