An ancient writer once observed, “There is nothing more unreasonable than to estimate our worth by the opinion of others. Today they laud us to the skies, tomorrow they will cover us with ignominy.” There is undoubtedly a great deal of truth in this statement, but I am quite certain that the thought expressed there certainly does not apply to the man who is honored by this special edition of the *California Law Review*, Chief Justice Roger J. Traynor.

The members of the legal profession are sometimes criticized because they tend to withhold deserved praise from other members of their profession and for their reluctance to recognize greatness when it appears in their midst. And yet, if there was ever a man who deserved to receive the accolades of the legal profession, it is Chief Justice Traynor. It is to the immense credit of the lawyers of this State—and also the Nation—that they have long universally recognized Justice Traynor’s excellence and have long accorded him the honor and respect he so richly deserves.

My own high opinion of his unquestioned competence and abilities could not be better demonstrated than by the fact that it was my proud privilege to elevate him to the highest judicial office in this State—Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. When the beloved Phil S. Gibson retired after serving our citizens for so many years, and it became my duty to choose a man to replace this giant of American law, I did not have to look beyond the membership of what has been widely recognized as the finest State supreme court in the land to find a worthy successor. I considered all possibilities, but returned to what I had always really known from the start: Justice Traynor was the outstanding choice.

It is eminently fitting and proper that this special edition of the *California Law Review* should pay tribute to one of its most distinguished sons. I will leave to others the recitation of Chief Justice Traynor’s many accomplishments, his landmark decisions, and his innumerable honors.

All of these things should be set out and given full recognition, for they constitute the rich legacy this distinguished jurist has already given to us. I am confident he will add to them in the years to come and will continue to give lustre to the court he now heads.
When I think of Chief Justice Traynor, I am reminded of the words of Socrates in speaking of what makes a great judge: "Four things belong to a judge: to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially." The man we honor today is a living example of these high motives, and we in California are fortunate to have him available to serve us in the splendid manner he has for so many years.

EDMUND G. BROWN