

# philippine studies

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## **On the Supreme Court of the United States: An Autobiography of the Supreme Court**

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Teilhard de Chardin can serve as beacons to guide social scientists away from dead-end paths. "Without a long period of maturing, no profound change can take place in nature." Admittedly, this is not a comforting reflection.

MICHAEL MCPHELIN

## ONE MORE ABOUT ROMULO

**CARLOS P. ROMULO: VOICE OF FREEDOM:** By Evelyn Wells.  
New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company, Inc. 1964. 180 pp.

The life of Carlos P. Romulo is the classic tale of the small-town boy made good. It is a story which has all the elements of a novel because it seems too remarkable to be true.

Carlos P. Romulo is familiar to most Filipinos and Americans of the Second World War generation as the Voice of Freedom. From battle-scarred Corregidor, the small man from Camiling resisted the Japanese. Today the same voice speaks for freedom whether it be from colonialism or communism.

Evelyn Wells' "authorized biography" is but one more about General Romulo. In 1953, Cornelia Spencer wrote *Romulo: Voice of Freedom*. And in 1961, President Romulo gave the world his own version of his enchanted existence in *I walked with heroes: General Carlos P. Romulo*. The present work offers nothing substantial. It is an easy-to-read primer. There is nothing new for those already familiar with the General's life.

MICHAEL P. ONORATO

## ON THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

**AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE SUPREME COURT.** Edited by Alan F. Westin. New York: Macmillan, 1963. xii, 475 pp.

This collection of selections from the writings of justices of the United States Supreme Court does not, of course, fulfill the promise of its rather whimsical title. While the court has reached the venerable age of 175 years, the editor, an associate professor of public law and government at Columbia University, presents mostly writings of recent times. Of 38 selections 25 are by justices who occupied the bench after 1930. The editor unabashedly has a favorite, to whom he dedicates

his volume: seven selections are from the pen of Felix Frankfurter, while William J. Brennan comes in a poor second with four.

The writings are, with a few exceptions, out of court commentaries by the justices on the work of the Supreme Court. One exception is the charge from the bench of Samuel Chase in 1803 which led to the attempt of President Thomas Jefferson to oust him through impeachment. Equally interesting to the historically minded is John Marshall's anonymous defense of his landmark verdict on *McCullough vs. Maryland*, reprinted, so the editor assures us, for the first time since 1819. There is a group of memorial addresses: Story on Marshall, Curtis on Taney, Frankfurter on Holmes, Jackson on Brandeis. These are, without exception, *nil nisi bonum*; but then the speakers obviously were hearing at their backs the winged chariot hurrying near.

The most interesting section of the book, and by far the largest, is devoted to the contemporary Supreme Court. A reading of these passages will not only educate the uninitiate in the mechanics of the Court's operations, but it will reveal the attitudes of the present justices towards their office, the philosophy behind their decisions, and the constitutional questions they deem of major moment at the present time. Douglas on *Stare decisis*, Brennan on the Bill of Rights and the states, and Jackson on the Supreme Court as a political institution are but three of a thoughtful group of essays.

While the book will not satisfy those who like autobiographies, it might appeal to the mystery fans. Where is the selected bibliography? In his introductory chapter the editor constantly urges his readers to consult it. If one dutifully turns to the end of the book, he will find no bibliography (nor index, for that matter). Where is the passage from the pen of Justice Samuel Nelson which is promised on page 18? Diligence will uncover the bibliography, but this reviewer could not unearth Nelson. Where will the editor next put the notes? He caters to all tastes; he places them in the text, or at the bottom of the page, or grouped at the end of the selection. And the greatest mystery: why did the editor publish this book? There is no apparent end served by the volume and the selections are tied together by a very weak string. Nevertheless to those interested in legal history the book will repay reading.

FRANCIS X. CURRAN

## FAITH, CHURCH AND LIFE

OUR WAY TO GOD. A Book of Religious Self-Education. By Franz Michel Willam. Ronald Walls, tr. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1964. xv, 400 pp.