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## Personal Memoir about Professor Hyman as Government Lawyer

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# PERSONAL MEMOIR ABOUT PROFESSOR HYMAN AS GOVERNMENT LAWYER

NATHANIEL L. NATHANSON\*

The current revival of price, rent and wage controls makes it especially timely that this *Law Review* issue dedicated to Professor Hyman should contain at least some mention of his service as Price Attorney, Assistant General Counsel, and finally Associate General Counsel with the Office of Price Administration from 1942 through 1946. In this last capacity, he was in charge of the defense of the validity of all price and rent regulations and orders in the Emergency Court of Appeals.

There are many others besides myself who, I am sure, would have been happy to write such a tribute, including the General Counsels under whom Hyman served, especially David Ginsburg and Richard Field. Nevertheless, it is perhaps peculiarly appropriate that I should write for all of his associates because I was the one who was the most immediately indebted to him. Some faint inkling of that debt may be gleaned from the article which we wrote together, after it was all over, called *Judicial Review of Price Control: The Battle of the Meat Regulations*.<sup>1</sup> If there was a single field commander in direct charge of that battle, on behalf of the Price Administrator, it was certainly Jack Hyman; its successful conclusion was due more to him than to any one other person. He bore the major responsibility for developing the records, preparing the briefs, and presenting the oral arguments in the Emergency Court.

Mr. Hyman's performance in this particular litigation was only one of the many examples which might be cited of the exceptional talents and devotion which he brought to all aspects of his work. To my mind, Mr. Hyman came as close to the ideal image of what a government lawyer should be like as any one I have ever encountered. His ability to master, systematize and expound complex economic and statistical data in relationship to the crucial legal issues involved was the essential key to successful communi-

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1. 42 ILLINOIS L. REV. 584 (1947).

cation between lawyers and non-lawyers within the governmental establishment, to the development of adequate records in support of administrative conclusions, and finally to the persuasion of reviewing judges with regard to the validity of those conclusions. The slide rule which Hyman always carried in his pocket and operated with the skill of an expert was to me the awesome symbol of his interdisciplinary prowess. More important, the many briefs which he wrote or supervised were models of exposition as well as persuasion in a complex area of business regulation.

I do not mean to suggest that it was only these intellectual qualities which made Jack Hyman the ideal government lawyer. There were also qualities of temperament and character which were equally essential. Foremost among these was an unselfish concern for both the general and the professional welfare of his associates—a concern which made him a constant teacher as well as a supervisor and director. Many younger lawyers first learned how to write effective briefs and to argue cases under Jack Hyman's tutelage. He was always more concerned with their professional advancement than with his own. Consequently, I am confident that many of his former associates look back upon their work with him as one of their most rewarding professional experiences.

I trust that the law students who have studied with Professor Hyman appreciate what a rare opportunity they have had to learn from a master of legal craftsmanship as well as from a profound and questing thinker about the deeper meanings of the law.