

(1) Revised Draft Citation - Thomas R. Berger

The Evangelist has warned us to eschew judgment lest we ourselves be placed in some celestial dock. For a member of the judiciary, Thomas R. Berger, this must at times seem advice leading to imminent unemployment. But we believe that you should have no fear of being judged.

One of the youngest Members of Parliament, you represented a Vancouver constituency in Ottawa in 1962-1963. Three years later you represented the same area in the British Columbia Legislature, and in 1969 you were the provincial leader of the New Democratic Party. You abandoned active politics to build a practice in which you championed the rights of the original peoples of this province, especially their claims for territorial entitlement.

In 1971 you were appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia - a ~~testament of the years of hard labour on the Bench as instead your servitude~~

was outside the Law Courts. Simultaneously you served as Chairman of the Royal Commission on Family and Children's Law and also as head of a Federal Inquiry to which your name is always attached. In both these issues your verdicts have changed society. In the area of Family Law you have protected the rights of children and in your Inquiry you have reminded us that we are at our last frontier and that the rights of indigenous people of Canada must be heeded.

The classical writer, Dionysius, said that the eye of justice gazes from behind a mask of silence, but it is your utterances that have reminded us of the path