

J. A. A. BURNQUIST

On January 3, 1955, at the age of 75, J. A. A. Burnquist, former legislator, lieutenant governor, governor, and the attorney general from 1939 to 1955, retired from public service. Still alert, an intense worker, and a capable public official, he concluded a political career which began in 1909 when he made his debut as a 29-year-old member of the St. Paul delegation to the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Joseph Alfred Arner Burnquist was born in Dayton, Iowa, on July 21, 1879. He graduated from Carleton Academy in 1898, received an A.B. degree from Carleton College in 1902, and an A.M. degree from Columbia University in 1904. After receiving an LL.B. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1905, he began the practice of law in St. Paul. In 1906 he married Mary Louise Cross. The Burnquists have four children, John McLean, Mary Louise, Ruth Mabel and Rowland Joseph.

Burnquist's service as a youthful legislator from 1909 to 1911 brought him swift recognition. He caught the public eye as a candidate for speaker of the House in 1911, as a supporter of the statewide primary election system, and for sponsoring legislation for workmen's compensation benefits. This experience proved profitable when he became a candidate for lieutenant governor in 1912. He won the election with Republican A. O. Eberhart as the successful candidate for governor. In 1914 Burnquist was re-elected lieutenant governor, with a Democrat, Winfield Scott Hammond, taking over the governor's office.

When Governor Hammond died on December 30, 1915, Burnquist became the 19th governor of Minnesota. Although many people referred to 36-year-old Burnquist as "just a youngster," he was the successful candidate for governor in 1916, and was continued in office until 1921. Governor Burnquist recommended and worked for many important laws which are still extant.

Today, Burnquist is best remembered for his service as attorney general for the State of Minnesota. He was first elected to this office in 1938 and served continuously until his retirement in January, 1955. During all of these years Burnquist displayed the dignity, determination and calm deliberation which characterize outstanding jurists.

Attorney General Burnquist is noted for the manner in which he organized his office. He assigned his assistants to specific legal subjects and then assigned alternates for each subject. When litigation arose or when a request came in for an opinion, it was routed to the proper assistant. Very often the alternate was asked to give his opinion. If there was a disagreement the matter went to Burnquist. In resolving the problem he did his own research and made up his own mind, but he always respected the right of each member of his staff to have an opinion and to hold to it.

Difficult policy questions were Burnquist forte. His previous experience as a legislator, lieutenant governor and governor gave him a practical insight into the problems of governmental law. This practical insight, coupled with his powers of legal reasoning, has resulted in many sound opinions.

President of the National Association of Attorneys General, 1948-1949, member of Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Sigma Rho, and Order of Coif, leader of Minnesota law for fifteen years, Attorney General Burnquist has been appropriately and affectionately called "the general."

former
general
intense
career
member
atives.

wa, on
received
degree
degree
ctice of
nquists
el and

to 1911
a candi-
atewide
rkmen's
when he
the elec-
date for
or, with
vernor's

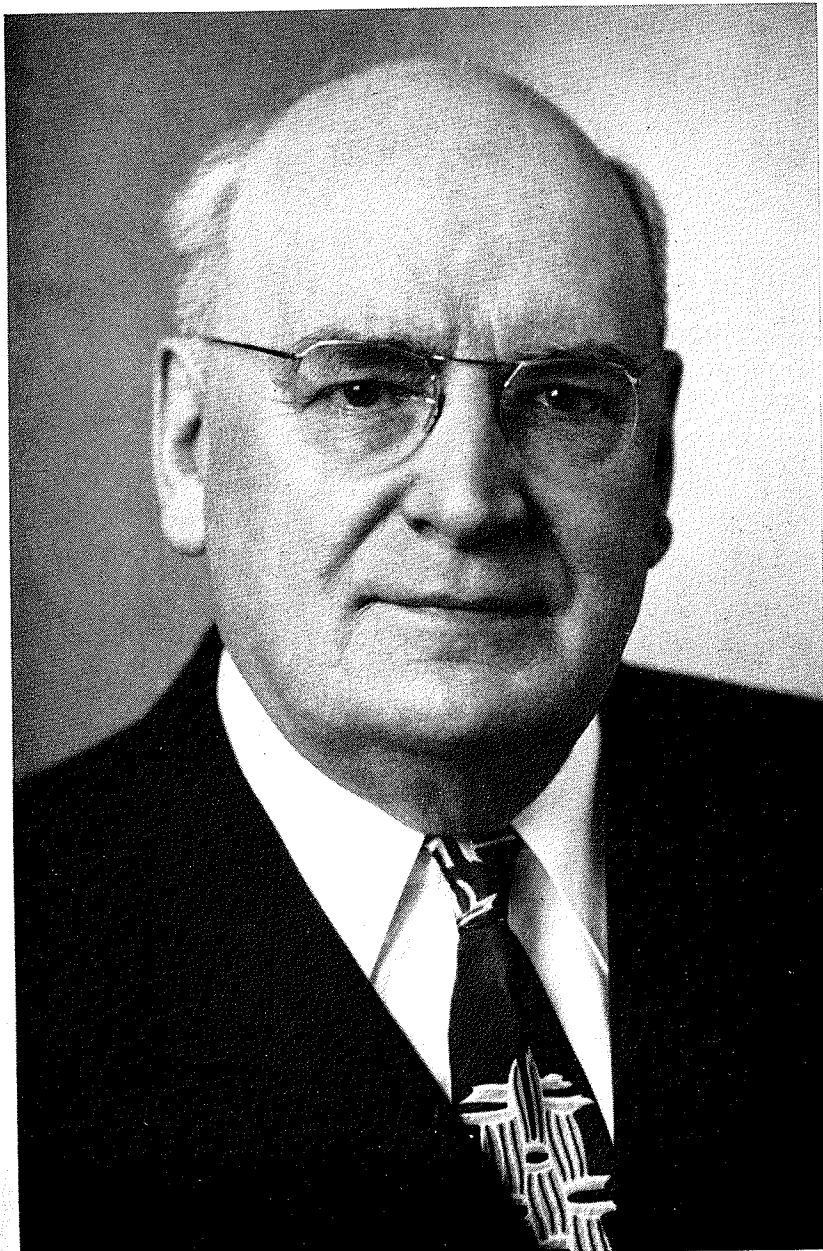
urnquist
eople re-
was the
in office
or many

attorney
his office
ry, 1955.
termina-
g jurists.

in which
ific legal
litigation
ced to the
give his
urnquist.
de up his
oer of his

previous
gave him
This prac-
s resulted

General,
and Order
y General
alled "the



J. A. A. BURNQUIST

LEGISLATIVE MANUAL
Compiled for the
MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE
1955

THIS MANUAL IS
RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
TO THE
SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
FIFTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE SESSION
OF MINNESOTA
AND TO THE
PEOPLE OF THE NORTH STAR STATE

JOSEPH L. DONOVAN
SECRETARY OF STATE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
STATE OF MINNESOTA