

Robert H. Jackson

Quotes

Law, Liberty, Government, Men, Rights, Doe, Justice, Political, Country, War, Honor, Bills, Book, Judging, Heart, Hands, Freedom, Independent, Use, Today

The day that this country ceases to be free for irreligion it will cease to be free for religion - except for the sect that can win political power.

~Robert H. Jackson

It is not the function of government to keep the citizen from falling into error; it is the function of the citizen to keep the government from falling into error.

~Robert H. Jackson

Those who begin coercive elimination of dissent soon find themselves exterminating dissenters. Compulsory unification of opinion achieves only the unanimity of the graveyard.

~Robert H. Jackson

The common sense of mankind demands that law shall not stop with the punishment of petty crimes by little people. It must also reach men who possess themselves of great power.

~Robert H. Jackson

I see no reason why I should be consciously wrong today because I was unconsciously wrong yesterday.

~Robert H. Jackson

The price of freedom of religion or of speech or of the press is that we must put up with, and even pay for, a good deal of rubbish.

~Robert H. Jackson

One's right to life, liberty, and property depends on the outcome of no election.

~Robert H. Jackson

The most odious of all oppressions are those which mask as justice.

~Robert H. Jackson

The very purpose of a bill of rights is to withdraw certain subjects from...political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of majorities.

~Robert H. Jackson

The priceless heritage of our society is the unrestricted constitutional right of each member to think as he will. Thought control is a copyright of totalitarianism, and we have no claim to it.

~Robert H. Jackson

Men are more often bribed by their loyalties and ambitions than by money.

~Robert H. Jackson

Not every defeat of authority is a gain for individual freedom, nor every judicial rescue of a convict a victory for liberty.

~Robert H. Jackson

There is danger that, if the Court does not temper its doctrinaire logic with a little practical wisdom, it will convert the constitutional Bill of Rights into a suicide pact.

~Robert H. Jackson

We are not final because we are infallible, but infallible only because we are final.

~Robert H. Jackson

Education should be a lifelong process, the formal period serving as a foundation on which life's structure may rest and rise.

~Robert H. Jackson

Had the jury convicted on proper instructions it would be the end of the matter. But juries are not bound by what seems inescapable logic to judges.

~Robert H. Jackson

The petitioner's problem is to avoid Scylla without being drawn into Charybdis.

~Robert H. Jackson

Civil government cannot let any group ride roughshod over others simply because their consciences tell them to do so.

~Robert H. Jackson

We can afford no liberties with liberty itself.

~Robert H. Jackson

When the Supreme Court moved to Washington in 1800, it was provided with no books, which probably accounts for the high quality of early opinions.

~Robert H. Jackson

While the Nation has forbidden monopoly by one set of laws it has been creating them by another. Patent laws, valuable as they may be in some respects, often foster monopoly.

~Robert H. Jackson

Your job today tells me nothing of your future--your use of your leisure today tells me just what your tomorrow will be.

~Robert H. Jackson

A person gets from a symbol the meaning he puts into it, and what is one man's comfort and inspiration is another's jest and scorn.

~Robert H. Jackson

I cannot say that our country could have no secret police without becoming totalitarian, but I can say with great conviction that it cannot become totalitarian without a centralized national police.

~Robert H. Jackson

In this court the parties changed positions as nimbly as if dancing a quadrille.

~Robert H. Jackson

The mere state of being without funds is a neutral fact constitutionally an irrelevance, like race, creed, or color.

~Robert H. Jackson

It is only the words of the bill that have presidential approval, where that approval is given. It is not to be supposed that in signing a bill the President endorses the whole Congressional Record.

~Robert H. Jackson

Due process requires some definite link, some minimum connection, between a state and the person, property or transaction it seeks to tax.

~Robert H. Jackson

It is hardly lack of due process for the Government to regulate that which it subsidizes.

~Robert H. Jackson

The office of the lawyer ... is too delicate, personal and confident to be occupied by a corporation.

~Robert H. Jackson

But the validity of a doctrine does not depend on whose ox it gores.

~Robert H. Jackson

It is possible to hold a faith with enough confidence to believe that what should be rendered to God does not need to be decided and collected by Caesar.

~Robert H. Jackson

This Court is forever adding new stories to the temples of constitutional law, and the temples have a way of collapsing when one story too many is added.

~Robert H. Jackson

There is no such thing as an achieved liberty: like electricity, there can be no substantial storage and it must be generated as it is enjoyed, or the lights go out.

~Robert H. Jackson

The duty to disclose knowledge of crime rests upon all citizens.

~Robert H. Jackson

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