

On First Looking into Spence's "Justice"

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"... one day I realized I wasn't put on this earth to fight for the great insurance companies and the banks and the big money against little people."

—With Justice for None

Not many of us know that Gerry Spence —
The champion of the humble, poor, and meek —
Began a man of the (civil) defense,
Of hourly rates and ficos for the weak.
But there arrived a point in his career
When Spence drew back and as anew beheld
Just what he'd done and what he'd counted dear.
Afire with guilty shame unparalleled
He asked himself, "Can I protect the rich,
The strong — the bad — the very well-insured?"
A flash! And Spence put off for good that which
He now despised: He knew he'd sorely erred.
Others, it's true, have such epiphanies,
But unlike Spence they tell us why — more fees!