

RETIREMENT OF REPORTER AND APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1946.

Present: The CHIEF JUSTICE, MR. JUSTICE BLACK, MR. JUSTICE REED, MR. JUSTICE FRANKFURTER, MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS, MR. JUSTICE RUTLEDGE, and MR. JUSTICE BURTON.

The CHIEF JUSTICE said:

Ernest Knaebel, who was appointed Reporter of this Court on October 10, 1916, served in that capacity until his retirement from active duty on January 31, 1944, a period of more than twenty-seven years, represented by eighty volumes of the United States Reports extending from Volume 242 to Volume 321, inclusive.

The Court records its appreciation of his diligence and valued labors as Reporter during his term of office.

We express sincere regret at the severance of a relationship which has been uniformly friendly and agreeable, and we wish for him in his retirement many years of well-earned repose.

The following is the text of Mr. Knaebel's letter regarding his retirement:

Washington, D. C., December 13, 1943.

Honorable HARLAN F. STONE,

Chief Justice of the United States.

DEAR MR. CHIEF JUSTICE:

Because of the wretched state of my health, which we have already considered, I deem it best that I retire

promptly from the office of Reporter. This I would do out of regard for the work that has been in my charge, as well as for my own security. I could wish to take the step on the 31st inst., unless you feel that, because of some matter wherein I might be of further use to the Court, postponement to a somewhat later day would be advisable.

During my long tenure—over twenty-seven years—commencing with the October Term of 1916, I served under four Chief Justices and twenty-one Associate Justices. And, earlier, when in the course of my duties as Assistant Attorney General, I was called upon to address the Court quite frequently in cases affecting interests of the United States, I happily came to know still another Chief Justice and four of his Associates, who, like him, were gone from the Bench when my career as Reporter was conceived. So, as advocate or editor, I have labored in positions of usefulness and honor, under the eyes of five of the Chief Justices and twenty-five of the Associate Justices of this unique and very potent tribunal.

And now, as I look back over the long years and pen this valedictory, I declare myself to have been most fortunate, that I enjoyed so many opportunities for worthy and congenial occupation, and so many valued contacts with so many very able and very kindly superiors. For this I give thanks to you and your Associates; to the Justices who are living in retirement; and to the memories of that larger number who, alas, have passed from sight but whose good works will live on in the pages of my Reports.

With high regard,
Very respectfully,

ERNEST KNAEBEL,
Reporter of Decisions.

To which the Justices replied:

Washington, D. C., December 21, 1943.

ERNEST KNAEBEL, Esq.,

Reporter, Supreme Court, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. KNAEBEL:

Since the beginning of the October Term, 1916, you have served the Court as its Reporter. Now as you inform us that, after twenty-seven years of service, you feel compelled to lay down your labors, we contemplate your retirement with regret, and with a sense of personal loss that so agreeable an association must come to an end.

In accepting your resignation we wish you to know that we hold in grateful esteem the diligent, loyal and capable performance of your duties through these many years. In that you have perpetuated a long and honorable tradition of the Court, and you will stand as an example to those who will follow you in the years to come.

We unite in expressing to you sentiments of personal regard, and the wish for you and for Mrs. Knaebel of many years enjoyment of the durable satisfactions which come from leisure well earned and well spent.

Yours sincerely,

HARLAN F. STONE.
OWEN J. ROBERTS.
HUGO L. BLACK.
STANLEY F. REED.
FELIX FRANKFURTER.
W. O. DOUGLAS.
FRANK MURPHY.
ROBERT H. JACKSON.
WILEY RUTLEDGE.

By an Order of the Court Mr. Knaebel's retirement became effective on January 31, 1944.

The decisions in Volumes 322 to 325, inclusive, and those of the October Term, 1944, published in this volume, pages 1 to 202, inclusive, were reported by Mr. Philip U. Gayaut, Assistant Reporter, assisted by Mr. Randolph S. Collins, Assistant Reporter.

On Monday, February 25, 1946, the Chief Justice also announced the following Order of the Court:

IT IS ORDERED that Mr. Walter Wyatt be, and he hereby is, appointed Reporter of this Court, effective March 1, 1946, in the place of Mr. Ernest Knaebel, resigned, and he is charged with the duty of reporting the decisions of the present term which have not been published prior to March 1, 1946.

The CHIEF JUSTICE administered the oaths of office to Mr. Wyatt in chambers on Friday, March 1, 1946.

The present Reporter is responsible for reporting all of the decisions of the October Term, 1945, since none of them had been published prior to March 1, 1946.