

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SUPREME COURT  
OF THE UNITED STATES

*In Memory of Mr. Chief Justice Vinson<sup>1</sup>*

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1954

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Present: MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN, MR. JUSTICE BLACK, MR. JUSTICE REED, MR. JUSTICE FRANKFURTER, MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS, MR. JUSTICE BURTON, MR. JUSTICE CLARK, and MR. JUSTICE MINTON.

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MR. SOLICITOR GENERAL SOBELOFF addressed the Court as follows:

May it please the Court: This morning, at a meeting called for that purpose,<sup>2</sup> members of the Bar of the Supreme Court adopted resolutions<sup>3</sup> expressing their profound sorrow at the death of Chief Justice Vinson. Addresses were made to the Bar by Judge John J. Parker of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Mr. Edward H. Foley, Jr., and Mr. Cody Fowler. The resolutions are as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Chief Justice Vinson died in Washington, D. C., on September 8, 1953. Services were held at the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, in Washington, D. C., on September 10, 1953, and at the Louisa Methodist Church, in Louisa, Ky., on September 11, 1953. Interment was in Pine Hill Cemetery, at Louisa, Ky., on September 11, 1953. See 346 U. S. pp. iv, vii.

<sup>2</sup> The Committee on Arrangements for the meeting of the Bar consisted of Solicitor General Simon E. Sobeloff, Chairman, Judge Walter M. Bastian, Mr. Joseph E. Davies, Mr. John Diederich, Mr. Cody Fowler, Mr. J. Howard McGrath, and Chief Judge John J. Parker.

<sup>3</sup> The Committee on Resolutions consisted of Mr. Sam Rayburn, Chairman, Mr. Dean Acheson, Mr. Francis Biddle, Mr. James Craw-

## RESOLUTIONS

We of the Bar of the Supreme Court are met here to record our regret at the untimely death of Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson. He died suddenly on September 8, 1953, at the age of sixty-three, after seven years of service on the bench of the Supreme Court as the thirteenth Chief Justice of the United States—the culmination of a life of service to his country.

Fred M. Vinson was born in 1890 on the banks of the Big Sandy River in the little town of Louisa in Eastern Kentucky. His father was the town jailer, and the family living quarters were in the same building that housed the jail. The boy was thus born almost, if not actually, in the jail—a circumstance to which in later life he sometimes humorously referred. The Vinson family knew poverty. The boy, Fred, knew also the stimulus and opportunities of American life. As a youth, he was a prodigious reader and read all that the Louisa Library offered. In the public schools of Louisa and Catlettsburg he excelled in both scholarship and sports.

The family was determined that he should go to college, and he went first to Kentucky Normal College and then, in 1908, on to the study of law at Centre College, Danville,

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ford Biggs, Mr. William Marshall Bullitt, Mr. W. Cameron Burton, Mr. Clark M. Clifford, Mr. Thomas G. Corcoran, Mr. Homer S. Cummings, Mr. Walter J. Cummings, Jr., Mr. Evan T. Davis, Mr. John W. Davis, Judge Charles Fahy, Mr. David E. Feller, Mr. Edward H. Foley, Jr., Chief Justice D. Lawrence Groner (retired), Chief Judge Learned Hand (retired), Chief Judge Marvin Jones, Chief Judge Bolitha J. Laws, Mr. Wilbur R. Lester, Mr. Chesley Lycan, Chief Judge Albert B. Maris, Mr. William M. Martin, Judge Wilbur K. Miller, Mr. William D. Mitchell, Mr. Fred W. Morrison, Mr. William W. Oliver, Mr. James C. N. Paul, Mr. Willard H. Pedrick, Mr. George Wharton Pepper, Mr. Philip B. Perlman, Mr. Charles E. Pledger, Jr., Mr. Paul Porter, Mr. Karl R. Price, Mr. Murray Schwartz, Mr. Arthur R. Seder, Chief Judge Harold M. Stephens, Mr. John L. Sullivan, Mr. Howard J. Trienens, Mr. Joseph P. Tumulty, Jr., Mr. Simeon S. Willis, and Mr. Henry A. Wise.

Kentucky. There his feats, academic and athletic, are legendary. A leader among his fellow students, he graduated as the top-ranking student in his class in 1909, won prizes in the Law School in 1910 and 1911, and emerged from the Law School in 1911 with the unique distinction of possessing the highest academic record in the history of the Law School. At the same time, he ranked as one of the outstanding college athletes of his day as shortstop and captain of the Centre baseball team for two years. It is more than rumor that he was tempted by a career in professional baseball. But he turned from this prospect to law and public service, never, however, losing his deep interest in the great American game. He was, in fact, a living encyclopedia of baseball learning and when in later life his responsibilities required decisions affecting this American institution he always approached them with special relish.

He entered the practice of the law in Louisa in 1911, and soon became City Attorney, an office then apparently more distinguished in its title than in its rewards. His varied practice in Louisa was interrupted during the First World War with a brief stint of military service ending in Officers Candidate School at the time of the Armistice.

As a lawyer and a Kentuckian he was naturally interested in politics. He was, moreover, singularly endowed for public service. His ability, integrity, fair-mindedness, and genial spirit won an ever-widening circle of friends and admirers. In 1921, he was elected Commonwealth's Attorney for his district. In 1923, when thirty-three years of age, he ran for Congress in the old Ninth District of Kentucky and was elected. Save for the Democratic eclipse of 1928, when he established a law partnership in Ashland, he was re-elected with ever-increasing majorities until his resignation from Congress in 1938.

For fourteen years Fred M. Vinson served his country in the Congress of the United States, and distinguished service it was. In 1931, in recognition of his demonstrated ability, he was assigned to the critically important

Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives where he soon became a key figure. In 1936, despite his lesser seniority, he was named as Chairman of the Special Subcommittee on Revenue Legislation of the House Ways and Means Committee. In all, seven revenue acts were passed while Fred Vinson was a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. Each reflected his handiwork. Many of the major features of our modern revenue system stem from his work. When the Revenue Bill of 1938, a wholesale revision of the revenue statute and predecessor of the Internal Revenue Code, was before the House, it was then known that he was leaving Congress for the bench of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The bill was passed almost without debate as a tribute to its guiding spirit and the time was given over instead to heartfelt tributes from both sides of the aisle to this man from Kentucky who had served his country so well.

But he was more than the Congressional tax expert, though there are easier subjects. His mastery of intricate revenue legislation, his fabulous facility with figures, his ability to translate the complex into the understandable and his talent for conciliation of divergent viewpoints combined to make him a key Congressional leader on such important measures as the Vinson-Guffey Coal Acts, the Social Security Act of 1935, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the National Labor Relations Act, and the reciprocal trade legislation. He was in fact one of the architects of the basic social and economic reform legislation of the Thirties. He believed in all rights guaranteed by the Constitution. He believed in the importance of all the "folks" and in the obligation of government to preserve for all the opportunity to live fruitful, useful, and happy lives. To this end, as a legislative leader, he devoted his talents and in so doing won the deep respect and the abiding friendship of adherents and opponents alike.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937 appointed him to a position on the bench of the Court of Appeals for the

District of Columbia. Resigning from Congress after the passage of the Revenue Act of 1938, he took the oath of office as an Associate Justice of that Court on May 12, 1938. To the bench he brought experience as a lawyer in private practice, extraordinary legislative experience, the technical competence of a legal draftsman, and, most important of all, real understanding and wisdom. From bench and bar alike he won respect and recognition. His opinions on the variety of subjects coming before that court were notable for their good sense and clarity of expression.

With the advent of World War II and the institution by Congress of a system of price and rent controls, Chief Justice Stone of the Supreme Court was charged with the responsibility of designating a Federal Judge to serve as Chief Judge of the newly established Emergency Court of Appeals to review administrative rulings of the Office of Price Administration. In 1942, Fred M. Vinson was selected by Chief Justice Stone for this responsibility.

A year later, he was asked by President Roosevelt to become the Director of Economic Stabilization, to serve in effect as the President's deputy to stabilize the civilian economy in support of the war effort. With his characteristic willingness to do the job that needed doing, he left the security of the federal judiciary to become, in the Executive Department, one of our great wartime civilian leaders—serving in a swift succession of positions of grave responsibility. No assignment was too demanding, no task was too hard for "Available Vinson" as he became affectionately known by the press. As Director of Economic Stabilization his was the duty, for twenty-one months, to fight the fires of inflation and thus help to sustain both the fighting front and home front. Resisting pressures for special dispensation with firmness, he "held the line" in the national interest.

Appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to serve as Federal Loan Administrator in March of 1945, he held the post for one month. He was then named by the

President as Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, an office charged not only with continued mobilization of resources for war but also with formulating the basic plans for converting our economy from war to peace. Enlisting the cooperation of other federal agencies, he immediately entered upon that task and in three months basic policies and plans for that purpose were formulated.

In July 1945, President Truman appointed Fred M. Vinson as Secretary of the Treasury. The nomination received the enthusiastic approval of the Senate and for eleven months he served his country in that post. It was a period of acute responsibility for the Treasury Department. As Secretary, his tax recommendations eventuated in the first postwar legislation carrying out the policies that he had outlined while Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion. On the international front he represented this Nation in negotiating the British Loan and the Lend-Lease Settlements, and in inaugurating the International Bank for Reconstruction and the International Monetary Fund. With his keen perception, ready wit, and practiced skill at negotiation, he proved a most effective international representative for this Nation's interest.

On June 6, 1946, his service as Secretary of Treasury was cut short, when President Harry Truman appointed him as Chief Justice of the United States. The Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination and on June 24, 1946, he took the oaths of office. For seven years until his death on September 8, 1953, Fred M. Vinson served as the thirteenth Chief Justice of the United States. That is not a long time as terms of the Chief Justices have run. But the years of his service as Chief Justice presented issues to the Court of transcendent importance to the Nation. Questions as to whether the equal protection of the laws extended to all races in all circumstances were presented in new and sharper focus. Congressional measures to thwart the conspiratorial apparatus of a foreign power were challenged as invasions of personal lib-

erty. The authority of the Chief Executive to act to protect the national interest in times of emergency was presented for judicial determination.

Such were some of the questions submitted to the Court while Chief Justice Vinson presided. Many of the Vinson opinions deal, not with such large issues, but with questions of lesser moment, technical and limited in scope, of interest to the profession and to few others. This was no accident. Charged with responsibility for opinion assignment, he was chary of reserving for himself the notable cases. He left his mark nonetheless. *Shelley v. Kraemer*, 334 U. S. 1, on racial restrictive covenants, *Sweatt v. Painter*, 339 U. S. 629, and *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents*, 339 U. S. 637, on racial discrimination in higher education, all written for a unanimous Court, are landmarks in the struggle to bring to all the equal protection of the laws.

He was devoted to the cause of freedom and convinced at the same time that "the effective operation of government . . . is an essential precondition to the existence of all civil liberties." In that conviction he wrote the opinions for the majority in *American Communications Association v. Douds*, 339 U. S. 382, and *Dennis v. United States*, 341 U. S. 494, sustaining the validity of Congressional enactments directed against the machinations of the Communist apparatus. The accommodation in a free society of personal liberty and security for the Nation will probably never be easy. It will certainly never be undertaken with a higher sense of dedication to the interest of the Nation and the liberty of its citizenry than Chief Justice Vinson brought to the task.

On occasion he dissented. Notable among his dissents was that in *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*, 343 U. S. 579, 667, stating forcefully his own uncompromising conviction.

His dissenting opinions were not numerous. In a real sense, therefore, the judgments of the Court on the large

issues decided during his period as Chief Justice were his own judgments as well. They were judgments accepted generally by the citizenry as fitting and wise. The Court has been strengthened as an institution of democratic government by the service of this Chief Justice who to the country so well represented justice administered fairly, with wisdom and dignity.

Beyond this, to those who knew something of the operation of the Court, there was appreciation for his fair-minded administration of the day-to-day business, for his devotion to the work of the Judicial Conference and for his effective leadership in the improvement of the administration of justice.

This then is the record of some of the public service in a career of rare distinction. Congressman, judge, wartime administrator, Cabinet officer, Chief Justice of the United States, Fred Vinson graced every role. To each task he gave his best with genial spirit, confident of the promise of the future. His was the faith that problems made by man can all be solved, to use his language, with "patience, tolerance, and understanding." Those are not common virtues. They were his in uncommon measure. A man of good will, friendly, approachable, genuinely interested in "folks," he has left behind him friends literally without number.

His was a good life. From his family life with his devoted and gracious wife, Roberta Dixon Vinson, and their two sons, his strength was renewed for the long and continuous service demanded of him by his country. His family also shared in his sacrifice, for a life of public service leaves only a legacy of honor.

On the death of this statesman and jurist, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed a period of national mourning and in tribute said of Fred M. Vinson: "a man of exemplary character, he possessed great human understanding, appreciation of our national heritage, and a keen mind. He has filled positions of great responsibility in all three branches of government—legislative, administra-

tive, and judicial. In all of them he served with efficiency, dignity, and integrity. He was an outstanding citizen whose death was a loss to America."

It is accordingly

*Resolved*, That we, the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, express our profound sorrow at the untimely death of Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson and our enduring appreciation for the contribution this great statesman and jurist has made to our profession and to our country:

*It is further Resolved*

That the Attorney General be asked to present these resolutions to the Court and to request that they be inscribed upon its permanent records and that copies of these resolutions be forwarded to the widow and sons of Chief Justice Vinson.

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MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL BROWNELL addressed the Court as follows:

Eminent members of the legal profession have today paid just tribute to the memory of the late Chief Justice Vinson. The strength of his character, his friendliness and humility, and his devotion to the public service as legislator, as Circuit Judge, as administrator and Cabinet officer, and finally as Chief Justice of the United States are indelibly impressed on our hearts and minds.

The Nation first knew him for his fourteen years of service in Congress. His warm personality, his folksy way of weaving homespun philosophy, his capacity for making friends and above all his integrity, combined to win over his adversaries in Congress to many social and economic reforms which he supported.

In 1937, he was offered a judgeship on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Reluctantly he decided to abandon his legislative career to assume judicial duties. In his later years he often reminisced, with obvious relish, about his Congressional career.

In his new judicial post, he served with distinction. His colleagues on the Court of Appeals, Judges Groner, Stephens, Rutledge, and others, were his good friends and held him in highest regard and affection.

He was a stickler for the facts and studied each record with great care. Lacking pretense and despising sham, he would not hesitate to pierce the armor of any attorney who dared advance an untenable argument or one not based on the record. Yet, he was also so considerate, gentle, and courteous, that the inexperienced and uninitiated lawyer was promptly set at ease in his presence. Off the bench, in meeting a young attorney, the "Chief" did not permit the occasion to pass without offering a kind word of encouragement.

If one quality stood out in him above others, it was his complete devotion to duty. When the country called upon him to render service to it, he responded without the slightest hesitation or thought of personal sacrifice. The circumstances surrounding his resignation from the Court of Appeals testify to the high sense of duty which actuated him.

One day while he was a member of the Court of Appeals and talking to a brother judge in his office, the phone rang. It was the President. Would he resign to accept the wartime job of Economic Stabilizer? The immediate answer was, "Yes, sir, if you think I can be of help." There was no indecision, no thought about personal considerations; there were no expressed regrets about assuming one of the most controversial positions in Government.

As Director of Economic Stabilization from 1943 to 1945, he was called upon to administer a most difficult assignment. It was his job to direct and implement a policy of holding the line against increases in ceilings on prices and wages. That he was successful in achieving this aim during a highly inflationary war period is a tribute to his tact and courage in the face of great pressures from every source.

In 1945, he was appointed Federal Loan Administrator. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, and in the same year was made Secretary of the Treasury. This was his last executive post. In 1946, President Truman appointed him as the thirteenth Chief Justice of the United States. It was this great office which crowned his life work as a public servant. He held it until his untimely death in 1953.

The "Chief" cannot, among his friends and associates here today, be remembered merely in terms of the opinions rendered by him while on the Supreme Court. He was full of wordly wisdom, dignity, and humility.

The "Chief" brought to his high office a very rare quality—a keen and sympathetic understanding of people and their proper place in an orderly society. He came with a great breadth of legislative and executive experience. In the give and take of political life, he had learned to appraise men for what they were. He brought to the Court and to the conference table the practical viewpoint of the country lawyer. This seventh sense served him well in judging the conflicts that frequently arise in the course of human affairs and in the clash between the rights of the individual and those of government. His moderating influence was a decisive factor in mellowing deliberations and maintaining the prestige of the Court.

His opinions were marked by clarity and comprehension. He hated abstractions. As Judge Learned Hand once said of Mr. Justice Cardozo, so, too, Fred Vinson "never disguised the difficulties, as lazy judges do who win the game by sweeping all the chessmen off the table . . . ." You might disagree with him but there was no mistaking where he stood.

The "Chief" was a person of deep conviction and sturdy independence. Yet he realized only too well that there is no conclusive solution for many of the problems presented in the law. This knowledge and tolerance gave

him the capacity of differing with his associates without rancor or ill-will.

As he revered the high traditions of the law and our system of justice, so he abhorred the slightest transgression in the courts of the legal rights of even the worst offenders. Though concerned about maintaining a secure and orderly government, the "Chief" was zealous in the protection of the individual citizen from arbitrary or capricious action by government officials. He condemned bail set at amounts the accused could not raise, even though the defendants were Communists whom he loathed. To him the equal protection of the laws was not merely an empty slogan. His decisions in the racial restrictive covenant cases and in the cases involving racial discrimination in higher education were a major contribution to the thinking and conclusion of the Court in its recent decision declaring segregation in the public schools to be unconstitutional.

He spoke for the Court in upholding the validity of the Smith Act by which Communist leaders could be imprisoned for conspiring to overthrow the Government by force and violence. He joined in sustaining contempt convictions of Communist lawyers who by conduct unbecoming their high profession tried to bring our courts into disrepute. And he struck out against irresponsible union action in the mine fields which would have paralyzed our country in a period of a war emergency. He was not only a distinguished legislator, an able executive, and a noted jurist but he was in every way an exemplary citizen, completely devoted to his gracious wife and two fine sons.

It was the country's good fortune that brought a man of such character, attainment, and integrity into public office. It was the country's great loss when he was taken from it.

May it please this Honorable Court: In the name of the lawyers of this Nation, and particularly of the Bar of this Court, I respectfully request that the resolution presented

to you in memory of the late Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson be accepted by you, and that it, together with the chronicle of these proceedings, be ordered kept for all time in the records of this Court.

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THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

Mr. Attorney General: The Court receives with great sensibility the resolutions of the Bar paying respect to the memory of the late Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson. In this tribute, we affectionately join. It is an eloquent expression of the sentiments common to all Americans, for the simple virtues and public services of this great Chief Justice are deeply inscribed in the hearts of all of us.

Eminent lawyer, legislator, administrator, statesman, jurist and, above all, great humanitarian, his life is an expression of the truth of the Biblical admonition, "Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house." (Matthew 5:15.) His light glowed so brightly in all the positions that he held with such distinction that, even before coming to the Chief Justiceship, he had devoted practically all of his mature years to rendering valuable service for his country.

Few men have been so well qualified by experience, intellect and personality to meet the exacting responsibilities of this position. While it was not my privilege to serve with him here, as did my brothers, I knew him well enough to realize that, although he rose from humble beginnings to the highest offices in all three Branches of our Government, he never lost his understanding of people—that common touch and good judgment so essential in one who attains such heights.

Chief Justice Vinson served here but seven years, a short span in the history of this Court. But as the 13th Chief Justice of the United States, he forged a strong link in the chain of constitutional interpretation. His varied

background had given him tools which enabled him to perform his work with precision and dispatch. He came to the Court from the high office of Secretary of the Treasury, where he had served with distinction in the field of domestic and international finance. Prior to that, he filled the positions of Director of Economic Stabilization, Federal Loan Administrator, and Director of Mobilization and Reconversion. For the five years preceding his entry into the Executive Branch of the Government, he had been a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, where in this short period he had written over one hundred opinions, excluding those handed down as Chief Judge of the Emergency Court of Appeals. In those courts, as here, he carried more than his full share of the work. Before being appointed to the Court of Appeals, he represented his native state in the Congress of the United States for more than ten years.

Hence, he came to the Chief Justiceship with the prestige and experience of honorable service in the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches of the Government—a unique distinction. This long dedication to the public service gave Chief Justice Vinson a comprehension of the difficult problems of the day that led not only to the writing of memorable decisions affecting almost every phase of American life but also brought to the judicial system an administrator of unfailing judgment.

To understand fully the import of his decisions one must remember that his tenure as Chief Justice covered crucial years in our history. Coming to this office soon after our country had emerged victorious from World War II, he witnessed the enormous tensions of the cold war. The problems arising out of this conflict affected the very life of the Government and at the same time threatened individual freedoms. It was the task of this Court to reconcile the two, enabling the Government to insure the survival of our way of life without infringing upon individual liberties.

His thought always was for country and he thus expressed it: "In our complex society, there is a great variety of limited loyalties, but the overriding loyalty of all is to our country." The causes he participated in were and still are controversial decisions. But all admire the legal craftsmanship exhibited in his handling of the delicate problems involved, the sincerity of the conclusions reached, and the strong moral overtones clearly expressing the philosophy of the Chief Justice that one's first and unswerving duty is to his country.

Chief Justice Vinson believed in the supreme worth of the individual, and he demanded equality before the law for all persons regardless of race. With characteristic fervor, he wrote: "Whatever else the framers [of the Constitution] sought to achieve, it is clear that the matter of primary concern was the establishment of equality in the enjoyment of basic civil and political rights and the preservation of those rights from discriminatory action on the part of the States based on considerations of race or color."

Because of his great interest in tax problems, which originated during his service on the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice played a major role in the tax litigation before this Court. His expert knowledge enabled him to solve the intricate problems in this field with such clarity that his opinions gained universal acceptance.

In appraising Chief Justice Vinson's judicial work, we must not limit our consideration to cases before the Court. His juristic achievement extended as well to judicial administration in which he excelled. Under his guidance, the Judicial Conference of the United States became an increasingly potent force in the effective operation of the federal judicial system. His responsibility in this field weighed heavily upon him. He devoted much time and energy to its performance. As a result, the Conference has become an important instrumentality in the

judicial service, according with the intentions of those who had so much to do with its creation and inception—Chief Justices Taft, Hughes and Stone.

Moreover, Chief Justice Vinson firmly believed that “justice delayed” often means “justice denied.” In the performance of his administrative duties on the Court, he made sure that this Court kept abreast of its cases and that the long delays in the lower federal courts were eliminated as soon as possible.

But such tangible and recorded achievements of the late Chief Justice were but one side of his busy life. His was a winning personality, a warm Southern heart which, combined with marked ability, made of him a gracious and trusted leader. But he was also a great mediator, and he could interplay these normally inconsistent roles with limitless tact and great personal warmth. Certainly he was “one who could disagree without being disagreeable.” His persuasive powers were strengthened by a phenomenal memory not only of events but of figures. With the wink of an eye he could tell you the batting average of almost any player in the big leagues or the number of completed passes in any prominent football game. Likewise he remembered what had transpired at a conference long before or the content of an unreported argument in the Courtroom.

Chief Justice Vinson was a kindly and humble man who loved his fellow man. There was no austerity in his being. Yet he possessed a quiet natural dignity that inspired respect and admiration, whether he was here on the Bench or in the stands witnessing an athletic contest.

His selfless nature and devotion to country are illustrated by his resignation from the Court of Appeals, at the request of the President, to accept the position of Director of Economic Stabilization, where he was in charge of the economic phases of the war effort. In tribute to this patriotic action, a group of some fifteen local lawyers organized the Vinson Club. Later its lim-

ited membership was enlarged to fifty. The sole function of the group was to meet at dinner each time he received a new honor as he advanced in the service of his Government. After having met four times in celebration of such an occasion in the short space of two years, the group had its crowning fulfillment when in 1946 Secretary Vinson became the Chief Justice. Thereafter, during his lifetime the Vinson Club met once each year at dinner to honor him. Now they meet to keep bright his memory.

Although Chief Justice Vinson's judicial career was cut short early in life, his was a long service to his country and its people. Though he is no longer with us, so long as this building is dedicated to the administration of justice, there shall be preserved here the best record of his service. Those who seek for his monument need only look here where are recorded the accomplishments of his high judicial station. We are grateful for the life of this brother who met every responsibility with integrity and complete fidelity. May he rest in peace.

Let the Resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this Court.

