

PRESENTATION OF "THE OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF MR. JUSTICE BURTON."

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

MONDAY, MAY 19, 1969.

Present: MR. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN, MR. JUSTICE BLACK, MR. JUSTICE HARLAN, MR. JUSTICE BRENNAN, MR. JUSTICE STEWART, MR. JUSTICE WHITE, and MR. JUSTICE MARSHALL.

Mr. William S. Burton, a member of the Bar of this Court, stated:

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, may it please the Court:

On behalf of the Burton family—and particularly on behalf of Mrs. Harold H. Burton—leave is respectfully requested to present to the library of the Supreme Court of the United States, and to each member of the Court, the first copies of a publication entitled "The Occasional Papers of Mr. Justice Burton."

Generous participation by the Bowdoin Press of Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, has helped make this publication possible.

The publication is presented as one man's footnote to four simple and explicit words—EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

It is generous of your dear mother, the Burton family, and President Coles of Bowdoin College to present to the Court this collection of vignettes of history of the Supreme Court.

This Court has never had an official historian, but your father, Mr. Justice Burton, was the historian in fact

during the thirteen years he served with us. He could recall every member who had ever sat on the Court and could recall with whom that member was sitting at any given date. In order to give emphasis to the fact that this is a continuing body and that there has been only one Court, he pointed out graphically that if anyone came to the Court in the 180 years of its existence he would have seen one of seven men sitting there—Cushing, Marshall, Wayne, Field, White, McReynolds or Hugo Black.

Each year he wrote for his Circuit Judicial Conference on some historic event in the life of the Court. Some of these writings are recaptured in this little volume entitled "The Occasional Papers of Mr. Justice Burton." We are very happy to have them for ready reference, and I am sure the book will find a cherished place in the library of each of us.

Although it is eleven years since he retired, the majority of the Court now sitting served with him—JUSTICE BLACK and JUSTICE DOUGLAS throughout his tenure; JUSTICE HARLAN for approximately four years; JUSTICE BRENNAN for three years, and myself for five years.

We always valued the words of Mr. Justice Burton, whether they were recorded in his opinions in the United States Reports, in his speeches, or in words spoken in our Conferences. We knew that they were always forthright, sincere, and directed to some purposeful end. I am sure I can say without any danger of contradiction that no man in the long history of the Court was held in higher esteem by his colleagues than was Justice Harold H. Burton, and this book will be another means for us to perpetuate his nostalgic memory.

We are happy that his widow, Selma, for whom we have the same affection we had for him, is here today to witness this little ceremony, and we express our thanks to her and all of the Burton family for presenting this reminder of the affection that her husband had for this Court which he served so nobly.