

TRIBUTE TO MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1973

Present: MR. CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER, MR. JUSTICE DOUGLAS, MR. JUSTICE BRENNAN, MR. JUSTICE STEWART, MR. JUSTICE WHITE, MR. JUSTICE MARSHALL, MR. JUSTICE BLACKMUN, MR. JUSTICE POWELL, and MR. JUSTICE REHNQUIST.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE said:

Before proceeding with our regular matters this morning, we will pause for a moment to take note of an important anniversary of our Brother, MR. JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS. Thirty-four years ago today he took the oath of office as an Associate Justice of this Court and in the history of this Court only Chief Justice Marshall, our late Brother Justice Black, and Justice Field served longer. Very soon JUSTICE DOUGLAS will surpass the record of even those three Justices. In his long career on this Court he has been a strong, articulate individualist willing to blaze new trails whether in the majority or in dissent but also willing to tread ancient paths of the law.

Several qualities distinguish JUSTICE DOUGLAS from many other illustrious predecessors on the Court but I will mention only one. He is possessed of a restless, questing mind and spirit not only in the law but in relation to the world around him and in the events of his time. On his vacations he has climbed mountains, visited strange parts of strange lands and he has written

and lectured about them. He has also written of current developments on the social, economic, and political scene, and for all of his life he has been devoted to nature and the outdoor life. He was a student of ecology before the word had currency and in his concern for man's environment he was far ahead of his time. His service on the Court spans the tenure of five Chief Justices and by the end of this Term of Court his opinions will have appeared in 103 volumes of the United States Reports, or more than one-fourth of all volumes of reported cases of the Court.

I know I speak for all Justices and retired Justices on this anniversary in extending to you, Bill, our best wishes for continued good health, long life and much happiness, and many more mountains to climb.