



PROCEEDINGS

Had on November 3, 1939

in the

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Southern District of New York

on the

One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary

of its Organization



U. S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

SECOND CIRCUIT

The Property of the United States



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*At a Special Term of the United States District Court
for the Southern District of New York, held in the United
States Court House, Borough of Manhattan, City of New
York, on the 3rd day of November, 1939.*

PRESENT:

THE HONORABLE JOHN CLARK KNOX

THE HONORABLE HENRY WARREN GODDARD

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM BONDY

THE HONORABLE JOHN MUNRO WOOLSEY

THE HONORABLE FRANCIS GORDON CAFFEY

THE HONORABLE ALFRED CONKLING COXE

THE HONORABLE GEORGE MURRAY HULBERT

THE HONORABLE VINCENT LOYOLA LEIBELL

THE HONORABLE JOHN WILLIAM CLANCY

THE HONORABLE SAMUEL MANDELBAUM

THE HONORABLE EDWARD AUGUSTUS CONGER

The United States District Judges

For the Southern District of New York

JOHN THOMAS CAHILL, Esq.,

United States Attorney

For the Southern District of New York

. . .

GEORGE FOLLMER, Esq., *Clerk of the Court*

GERALD RUSSELL THAYER, Esq., *Deputy Clerk of the Court*

EDWARD ALEXANDER ROGERS, Esq.,

Deputy Clerk of the Court

JUDGE KNOX

AT this hour, one hundred and fifty years ago, the first session of the United States District Court for the District of New York had been convened and was in progress. Upon the bench was Judge Duane. As Mayor of the City of New York, and as a judge of this court, he made a lasting impression upon the history of this community. In view of the fact that he was the first man to preside over the court, it is peculiarly appropriate that the splendid building in which we are gathered today should be bounded on one of its sides by a street which bears the name "Duane."

In the years that have passed since this court first was organized, this country outgrew its swaddling clothes and took on the stature of a great state. Along with the Government, the court has grown in power, influence and importance. Indeed, it presently exercises a jurisdiction that, perhaps, is wider than that of any tribunal upon the earth.

In times of peace and days of war, in years of plenty and periods of want, this court—modestly and unostentatiously—has endeavored faithfully to perform duties which these conditions imposed upon it. It has achieved, I think, a fair measure of success. We indulge the hope that, in the future, quite as much as it has done in the past, the court will creditably do its work and fairly administer justice to all who come within its portals.

In looking back over the history of the court it is interest-

ing to note that, at this bar, a quarter of a million disputes have been resolved. By judgments and decrees here rendered untold sums of money have changed ownership. Upon the criminal side of the court, the country's penal law has been vindicated, and thousands of men who dared flout that law have gone to jail. In other ways, and far beyond the ken of any man, the work of the court has profoundly affected the lives of uncounted men and women. That the decisions of the court have always been right none will claim. But, even so, the wrongs that may have been inflicted as the result of erroneous judgments are greatly outweighed by the good that has here been wrought.

In bearing aloft the judicial torch, the court has had the aid and assistance of many members of the bar who were ornaments to the profession of the law. Upon the roster of those authorized to practice here one can find the names of men who occupied the Presidency; and many others who, in legislative halls, in the cabinet, in governors' chambers, upon the Supreme Court, and elsewhere, rendered distinguished public service. In what these men did, all of us may well take pride and give them our thanks.

But, so far as the daily administration of justice is concerned, we are more than indebted to the able and distinguished men who have occupied the office of United States Attorney for this district. They, and their assistants, patriotically and loyally, have represented the Government, and served the court in a manner that I believe to be unequalled anywhere within the land. It is gratifying to see so many of these men in this courtroom today. To each of them, and

to the others of their number who are absent or who are gone from amongst us, the court very sincerely pays tribute, and, for what they have done, expresses gratitude.

In the century and a half that has elapsed, since the foundation of this court, thirty-two men have sat upon its bench. Of that number about one-third are in commission today. And, what is more, sixteen of the thirty-two judges are alive and well. May each of them continue to be well and happy for countless days to come.

But, as one day succeeds another, each much like its predecessor, I am made conscious of the fact that these days accumulate into years and that my own judicial service begins to be long. It may surprise you to know that, with the exception of the tenure of office of Judge Betts, my length of service exceeds that of any man who ever sat upon this bench—twenty-one and one-half years. Out of that long period I do not begrudge the Government and the public a day of the time. Being here is a privilege in which I have taken, and continue to take, joy and satisfaction. In this respect, each of my colleagues, I am sure, feels as I do. To the utmost of our strength and our respective abilities, we wish, devoutly, to emulate the records that were made by Duane, Betts, Blatchford, Brown, Hough, Mayer and the Hands. In the realization of this wish, I pray God we may be successful. We also trust that as long as the Government stands, and may that be forever, this court will be a place to which all men in need of judicial aid may freely come and have confidence that justice will here be dispensed without favor and without price.

We had hoped to have with us today a number of persons who have been unable to be present, but I saw a man come into the courtroom a few moments ago whom I am delighted to have here. I see him now, and most of you know him. He is a man who, I suppose, was connected with the court for a longer period than any other man in its history. He writes me as follows:

Thanks for your kind invitation to attend the ceremonies on November 3rd. I do not know at the present time if I can make it or not; if I do I will take the chance of getting a seat.

I believe, as you say, that I was attached to the District Court for a longer period than any other person. I am the sole survivor of those who were connected with the Clerk's Office of either the District Court or the Circuit Court, United States Attorney's or the United States Marshal's, when I entered the United States District Clerk's Office. The last of the Mohicans. Of the attorneys practicing in the District Court at that time, there are only three left and they are not active now,—Peter Alexander, William Parkin and C. C. Burlingham.

It seems to me that something should be said about the fact that D. D. Tompkins was commissioned as a District Judge, but as far as a search of the records of the Court at that time show he never acted or qualified.

Kindly remember me to all your judicial brethren that know me.

As ever, Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER GILCHRIST, JR.

It is also interesting to know that on February 5, 1790, the first three men to be admitted to the Supreme Court

were admitted at that time. As a result this court admitted persons to this bar three months and two days ahead of the Supreme Court of the United States.

We had hoped, as I say, to have a number of persons here. One of them was the Attorney General of the United States, and he has wired me as follows: "Duties prevent my attendance at your ceremony but here in Washington I feel deeply the satisfaction which must belong today to your colleagues and yourself. May this happy anniversary be a harbinger of long life in our land for that justice which exalteth a nation, bringing faith and self respect to the hearts of men."

The Chief Justice too has taken cognizance of this celebration and he has written to me as follows:

My dear JUDGE KNOX:

I deeply regret that I cannot be present at the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the District Court. It is well to stiffen our resolves and to heighten our zest by recalling the arduous service of the eminent men who in other times and with difficulties of their own have labored in the administration of justice according to law.

The courts are what the judges make them, and the District Court in New York, from the time of James Duane, Washington's first appointment, has had a special distinction by reason of the outstanding abilities of the men who have been called to its service. The names of Samuel R. Betts, who served for over forty years in the Southern District, and of his successors, Samuel Blatchford, William G. Choate, Addison Brown and Charles M. Hough, are high on the roll of the most eminent jurists of this country. They established a record which has been a constant inspiration to the able and industrious men who have sat in the four districts in New

York State. It may arouse mingled emotions in those now struggling to keep up with their dockets to recall that on the death of Judge Betts in 1868 his eulogist observed that when he came to the Bench in 1826 "there was almost no business in the court"; that it "did not then sit a week where now (in 1868) it sits a month"; and that thus he "had leisure to familiarize himself with the law of admiralty" and soon to become "one of the most learned judges in that branch of the law." We cannot fail to remember this advantage as we read his elaborate opinions in the cases of the *Bark Springbok* and the *Steamship Meteor*.

The broadening of the jurisdiction of the District Court has brought about in recent years a congestion in the Southern District which has long been the despair of those who have sought to obtain an adequate judicial force. At the last Judicial Conference of Senior Circuit Judges the report of the Attorney General showed nearly 1300 criminal cases and nearly 5000 civil cases pending in the four judicial districts of New York, of which over 800 criminal cases and over 3500 civil cases were pending in the Southern District. Inordinate delays in the administration of justice constitute a reproach which should not be permitted to continue. It is inexcusable because it can be easily remedied when it is due, as in this instance, to lack of judicial assistance. We trust that this lack may soon be made up by the provision of an adequate number of judges for this district.

I suppose that there is no more heavily burdened court than this District Court whose anniversary we celebrate. You and your associates are bearing this burden loyally and unselfishly. The community at large knows little of your heavy labors, but after all it is not in fleeting public recognition but in the consciousness of impartial and indefatigable service in the interest of justice that the judge finds his enduring and ample reward.

With due tribute to the masters of the past, I send my greetings and congratulations to you and the other Judges of the District for worthily upholding a most honorable tradition of fidelity and ability in the discharge of judicial duty.

I am, my dear Judge Knox,

Very sincerely yours,

CHARLES E. HUGHES

Upon this bench Judge Thomas D. Thacher once sat. To our regret he is no longer a member of this court. He is, however, a practitioner at its bar, and one who has our confidence, respect, and affection. As an Assistant United States Attorney, under the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, as the worthy son of a worthy sire, who once stood at this bar, as a judge who added lustre to this bench, and finally, as an outstanding citizen of New York, he is qualified, if anyone is, to speak upon this occasion. Will you, as we shall do, give willing ear to Judge Thacher.

JUDGE THACHER

May it please the Court and Members of the Bar:

AT the request of Judge Knox, Senior Judge of this court, I rise to remind the Court and Members of the Bar, that today is the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and that it is appropriate that this court should pause for a moment in its work to mark that fact.

It is a fact which I had not known until it was confirmed by an examination of the records a few days ago, that this is the first court ever organized under the sovereignty of the United States. The Judiciary Act of 1789 provided for the opening of the courts on fixed days in the different districts, and set the same day for the District of New York and the District of New Jersey. All the other inferior courts organized under that statute met at subsequent dates. I took pains to inquire of the Clerk of the District Court of New Jersey to ascertain whether that District was late or punctual in its organization. The fact is that the first judge of that court, because of physical indisposition, was constrained to adjourn its opening for several weeks, so that this court is the first court ever organized under the sovereignty of the United States. Its organization in this city is of peculiar significance, for New York is celebrating this year the organization of the Government of the United States in this city one hundred and fifty years ago, including the inauguration of President

Washington and the meeting of the First Congress. But this was the only court organized in 1789 and it preceded by a number of weeks the organization of the Supreme Court of the United States, which did not occur until February. It is also interesting to note that the commission of the first judge of this court was signed on precisely the same day that President Washington signed another commission, that of the Chief Justice of the United States.

For its first session this court met in the Exchange Building at the foot of Broad Street, the same building in which the Supreme Court was subsequently organized. Of its jurisdiction Judge Hough has said: "To be sure, the District Court was given jurisdiction to administer for minor offenses 'not over thirty stripes,' and it might try certain suits by aliens for torts in violation of 'treaties and the law of nations,' also small actions by the United States; but everything except the still existing consular jurisdiction, and admiralty and governmental seizures, was concurrent either with the State Courts or the Circuit Court, and so it practically remained, plus bankruptcy at times, for a century and a quarter. So long a stretch of substantially unchanging work is unique in American judicial history."

That was its long infancy and childhood, compared with what has happened since, let us say, 1891, when it actually assumed, by assignment, the work of the Circuit Court which was formally imposed upon it with the abolition of that court in 1812. It was rightly assumed at the time of its organization that the court's most important function would be the exercise of the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, which it

inherited from the Colonial Vice-Admiralty Courts, and the State Admiralty Court which assumed their jurisdiction after the Declaration of Independence.

The first judge of the court, Judge Duane, appropriately chose two men experienced in this field of the law, one to act as his own clerk and the other to act as the clerk of the court, and it was fitting, since this was the most important jurisdiction to be exercised, that this first judge's oath should have been administered by Richard Morris, Chief Justice of the State at that time, but who was a Colonial Vice-Admiralty Judge from 1762 until the creation of this State Court of Admiralty. Mr. Morris had declined appointment to this State Court because, as he explained, his Westchester estate had been destroyed by the British and his family needed his assistance badly. Three years later he became Chief Justice of the State, and in that capacity administered the oath of office to the first judge to sit in a court of admiralty under the Constitution.

The Judge of the State Court of Admiralty was Judge Lewis Graham, the only judge of that court. Judge Hough says of him: "There is no record of his having ever appeared in the Admiralty Court as a practitioner."

If you will pardon a personal reference, I must say that I enjoyed the same distinction when I presided in admiralty as a member of this court.

The admiralty bar in those days, as in these, was extremely jealous of its own preserves. It was a compact, specialized bar. Less than twenty-five men handled eighty per cent of the work in admiralty for fifty years preceding the organiza-

tion of this court, but the members of this bar did not confine themselves to that narrow practice, no doubt because there was too little to live upon. They were men who practiced in all the other courts, and were the best the Colony produced. Men of stature and of influence at the bar leave few memorials of their professional accomplishments. Admired by their contemporaries, they are not remembered much beyond the generation in which they live. We have, however, an address of Chancellor Kent, delivered in 1836 before the Law Association of the City of New York, in which he describes the New York Bar at the time this court was organized. It is fitting on this occasion to note what he said of the bar in general, and what he said in regard to the three men who served in succession as the first judges of this court. Speaking of the bar, he said: "The New York Bar contained a constellation of learned and accomplished men during the latter and closing scenes of the Colonial administration."

Naming six of the leaders in this bar, he included James Duane, the first judge of this court, and said of the group: "These persons were all learned and accomplished lawyers. There were others at that day just rising into notice, and laying the foundations of future eminence in professional learning, skill and character. Their names are deeply and legibly impressed on the annals of the Revolution. They fill the highest civil offices in the gift of their countrymen, whether in the state or in the Union, with consummate ability and brilliant success."

And speaking again of individuals, he coupled the names of John Lawrence, the second judge of this court, and Robert

Troup, the third judge of this court, with other leaders of the bar, including Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, and said of them: "Their minds were exercised, and acquired fervour and force either in the great contest for independence, or in the equally interesting struggle for a national Constitution."

When the court was organized, it had nothing to do. Judge Duane's commission was read, and attorneys were admitted to the bar, the first men who were ever admitted to a court of the United States. It was not until the following year, in April, that the first proceeding was commenced. It was a customs case, and I refer again to Judge Hough, who is authority for the statement, that more than three-quarters of the minutes of the court during the whole of Judge Duane's incumbency were taken up with such proceedings. There were a few admiralty suits, but these were not seriously contested,—the process of admiralty apparently being used to perfect titles when the vessels were sold. Only three hundred and seventy-eight final orders were entered during Judge Duane's term of service, and these were concerned with admiralty and customs matters. Only a very limited number of people could have been in any way interested in the proceedings of the court, and presumably few laymen knew of its existence.

The work of such a court must have been extremely dull. The salary of the judge was \$1500. Judge Lawrence, who succeeded Judge Duane, served for less than three years. Having been a member of the House of Representatives, he was chosen Senator during this brief interlude of judicial

service. Judge Troup, who succeeded him, served for only a year and a quarter and resigned to resume practice, taking a place of eminent leadership at the bar.

Does it not occur to you that perhaps the work was uninteresting?

*With dull and unimportant duties to be done
The Judge's life was not a happy one.*

With the turn of the century, however, the work of the court became more important and there were no resignations except to assume other judicial office, until Judge William G. Choate resigned from this bench in 1881. The first four judges of the court span a period of service of only sixteen years. Their four successors span a period of sixty-four years. Among them was Judge Samuel Rossiter Betts, who held the office for forty-two years. Curiously enough, this court was organized on the very day when young Betts was celebrating his third birthday, so that we celebrate his birthday today. Fate has decreed that he and this court should celebrate forty-one of their birthdays together. Before his appointment in 1826 he had served in the Army during the War of 1812; he had been a member of Congress, District Attorney of Orange County, and for two years a Circuit Judge of the Supreme Court of the State. When he came to this court there were few cases in admiralty, but during his service this work was multiplied many times both in volume and in importance. In 1860, for example, two hundred and forty-five suits in admiralty were commenced in this court, of which he was the sole judge, whereas all the cases commenced, both

in the District and the Circuit Court, in law and in equity, and on the criminal side, exceeded this number of admiralty causes by only forty-five.

Judge Betts became one of the foremost authorities on maritime law. It is said that his work in this field was so highly regarded that appeals were rarely taken from his judgments. Certainly his labors contributed greatly to the development of maritime law and admiralty practice. During the Civil War he dealt extensively with questions involving blockade, prize and contraband. And it was during this period that the Eastern District was created, in order to relieve the Southern District of the greatly increased volume of litigation. Judge Betts' capacity as a trial judge is brilliantly displayed by his opinions, which disclose the accurate analysis of fact and of law which controlled his decisions. His extraordinary clarity of statement must have discouraged appeals, because it so forcibly demonstrated the soundness of his conclusions.

Judge Betts was succeeded by Samuel Blatchford, who brought to the bench experience in affairs, special knowledge of international and maritime law, and the court experience of a notably successful lawyer. He served as a judge of this court from 1867 to 1873, when he was made a Circuit Judge. In 1882 he was appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States, where he served until his death in 1893. Chief Justice Fuller characterized his judicial service as follows:

"Mr. Justice Blatchford was at home in every branch of the jurisdiction of the courts in which he sat. It is not easy

to distinguish where all was done so well, but it may be justly said that he displayed uncommon aptitude in the administration of the maritime law and of the law of patents, his grasp upon the original principles of the one and his mastery of details in the other aiding him in largely contributing to the development of both. His experience in adjudication and in affairs bore abundant fruit during his incumbency of a seat upon this bench and in the domain of constitutional investigation and exposition he won new laurels.

"As suggested by the Attorney General, he did not attempt in his judgments to 'bestow conclusions on after generations.' "

In this connection the Attorney General, on the same occasion, had said: "He never indulged in 'large discourse looking before and after,' much less in any flights of rhetoric. It satisfied his idea of judicial duty that the controversy before him was settled aright by the application of a rule of law broad enough to cover that case."

His career demonstrates the value of judicial training in this court for judicial service in the Supreme Court of the United States. Indeed, it is quite obvious that any judge engaged in the work of this court must acquire "uncommon aptitude in the administration of maritime law and the law of patents," and that there is no time here for large discourse, flights of rhetoric, or the bestowal of gratuitous conclusions on future generations. It was here and in the Circuit Court of this District, while engaged in the trial and disposition of causes, that Judge Blatchford acquired his apti-

tude in the process of judicial determination, and since we no longer have Circuit Courts it is upon the bench of this court that such aptitude may now be acquired.

In 1878, Judge Blatchford was succeeded by William G. Choate, who served as District Judge for only three years. That, it seems, was all he could afford, the salary being only \$4,000. He is said to have remarked that if he remained on the bench proceedings might be instituted against him in his own bankruptcy court. Judge Choate stood first in his class at Harvard, graduating in 1852. The second man in the same class was Addison Brown, and the fourth was Joseph H. Choate, the Judge's brother. While the court could not afford the services of the first scholar in that class for more than three years, it was fortunate indeed to obtain the services of the second for twenty years.

Addison Brown, because of a national tragedy, was appointed to this court by two presidents, receiving a recess appointment from President Garfield in the summer of 1881, which was renewed by President Arthur and confirmed by the Senate after President Garfield's assassination. Like Betts and Blatchford before him, he became a master of maritime law. Of his work Judge Hough has said: "It is not too much to say that the growth of the American Admiralty during the next twenty years was more largely due to Judge Addison Brown than to any other one man or one court, not excluding the Supreme Court itself." During his period of service he was able to devote himself very largely to this work because there was no Bankruptcy Act except during the last

three years of his service, and also because under the Act of 1873 the Judge of the Eastern District held the Criminal Terms in the Southern District. It was, indeed, because of the Bankruptcy Act of 1898 that Judge Brown determined to retire in 1901, at the age of seventy-one, knowing as he did that the increased volume of work could not possibly be carried on by a single judge.

Judge George B. Adams, experienced in admiralty, was appointed in his place but soon became ill from overwork. When an additional judgeship was finally created, to which Judge George C. Holt was appointed, Judge Adams devoted himself to admiralty cases. It was soon apparent that the court was still undermanned and another judgeship was created in 1906, to which Judge Hough was appointed, and still another in 1909 to which Judge Learned Hand was appointed.

I leave to another time and place comment upon the judges whom I have not mentioned, many of whom were known and are remembered by members of the bar, and most of whom are still living. Suffice it to say that the Solicitor General of the United States must determine whether or not any case decided in any District Court adversely to the Government shall be appealed. It can truthfully be said—I hope without invidious distinction—that for three years after I left this court the records which were reviewed for this purpose disclosed on the whole a very much higher quality of judicial service in this court than in any other District Court of the United States.

In reviewing the history of an institution, as in reviewing the life of an individual, the significant facts are those which show its growth and development. This court was for more than a hundred years primarily, at least in importance, a court of maritime jurisdiction. To be sure, it had jurisdiction of bankruptcy, customs, minor criminal prosecutions, seizures and forfeitures, but its contribution to jurisprudence was in the field of maritime law. In 1891, when the Circuit Court of Appeals was created, the Circuit Judges of this District, Lacombe and Wallace, became judges of that court, and thereafter we had no Circuit Judges. The jurisdiction of the Circuit Court was then exercised under a system of assignments by the District Judges or by the members of the Circuit Court of Appeals, and this court was formally abolished in 1912, as I have mentioned, their records and jurisdiction being transferred to this District Court. This change and transfer resulted in the exercise by this District Court of the entire jurisdiction granted by Congress to the inferior Federal Courts.

When Judge Brown retired, in 1901, the work of the court had increased beyond the capacity of a single judge. The extension of Federal control over many private and public activities had already commenced. With the growth and development of commerce, the volume of private litigation between citizens of different states increased immensely, but insignificantly compared with the increase of Government litigation. This process has gone on without interruption, and as the fields of Federal control have constantly widened,

the volume of litigation has increased. It is too great, even with the enlarged membership of the court, to be disposed of without the aid of visiting judges.

But with this increase of volume, the importance of the court has been enhanced enormously. It has grown as an institution. Its jurisdiction is wider than any other court. I venture to say that no other District Court in this country, or any other court in any other land, exercises a jurisdiction comparable in scope and importance with the jurisdiction exercised by this court. It embraces the whole of equity, admiralty, and of the common law, as well as those specialties predicated upon Federal Statutes, such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, and the innumerable statutes which are being passed from day to day. It is a criminal court for the prosecution of crimes against the United States. It has power to enjoin acts violative of the Constitution, and to protect the individual against the invasion of his constitutional rights. Sitting, as it does, in this great center of population and of trade, the issues which are brought before it for decision concern not only the parties who sit here, but great industries, great undertakings, and the individuals who are concerned in commercial enterprise all over these United States, whether as labor or as management or as capital. Where in the world can one find such judicial responsibility, or such judicial service?

One wonders what impressions Judge Betts, Judge Blatchford and Judge Brown would have if they could comprehend the work of this court today! They would be amazed at its

growth. They would be proud of those who succeeded them in its service. And they would be justified in their faith in its future—justified by the example of unselfish service so clearly exemplified in their own judicial careers and in the careers of those who have followed them.

May such traditions prevail in this court forever, strengthening the will to perfect the administration of justice under law.

JUDGE KNOX

JUDGE THACHER, we are deeply in your debt for what you have said concerning the court, its history and its accomplishments. And I should like, sir, to take this opportunity to tell the bar that in one of the court's greatest emergencies, your wisdom, your courage, and your sagacity did much to save the reputation of this tribunal. In that time of stress and strain, your service and devotion to right and decency were of the highest quality. For what you then did you deserve and have the gratitude of this court.

Gentlemen, to what Judge Thacher has said, I wish to add a word. It is this: The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York owes its standing not only to the judges who have been upon this bench, but, quite as much, to the men and women who, in the office of the clerk, have given their lives to the service of the United States and the public. To them, too, upon this occasion, I wish to extend the thanks of the court. Underpaid and unsung, day in and day out, these persons have loyally done, and now do, the work assigned them. As we remember the men who have sat upon this bench and who have practiced at its bar, we cannot forget the Alexanders, the Shields, the Gilchrists, the Etgens, the Merritts, the Weisers, the Follmers, and their assistants. Upon them all I gladly bestow the blessings of my associates and myself.

I have just received this telephone message from Washington:

Regret your letter was delayed in reaching me. I could not have been present at your Anniversary, but I should have liked to have put on paper, however inadequately, my sense of the significance of the 150th Anniversary of the District Court for the Southern District of New York. It has a great tradition of eminent judges of the highest standard of judicial administration. I personally feel for your court the attachment and the gratitude that one feels for the tribunal that gave him his best professional training.

Very sincerely,

FELIX FRANKFURTER

And now this ceremony is concluded. We thank each of you for your attendance. As you depart to take up your respective tasks, we ask one favor: It is that, in the days to come, this court will continue to have, as it has had in the past, your aid, loyalty and support.

That the proceedings this day had may be preserved for posterity, it is hereby ordered that they be spread by the clerk on the minutes of this court.