

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT)
OF THE HONORABLE OMER POOS)

Proceedings had in the above-entitled matter on the 14th day of November, A.D., 1963, before the Honorable John S. Hastings, the Honorable Frederick O. Mercer and the Honorable Omer Poos, in the Courtroom in the United States Post Office Building at Springfield, Illinois, commencing at the hour of 11:00 o'clock A.M.



P R O C E E D I N G S

JUDGE HASTINGS: A special meeting of the District Court is now convened for the purpose of conducting exercises leading to the presentation of a portrait of the Honorable Omer Poos.

I'm happy to recognize as my associates on the bench Chief Judge Fred Mercer and the guest of honor, Judge Poos.

At this time the Court will recognize the President of the Sangamon County Bar Association, Mr. John R. Chapin.

MR. JOHN R. CHAPIN: May it please the Court, Your Honors, distinguished guests, friends and fellow members of the bar: We are met here this morning to do honor to a singular member of our judicial community, the Honorable Omer Poos, a resident of Hillsboro in Montgomery County, who has been on the bench in this Federal District for but a few years, in which time he has earned a place of honor and dignity in the hearts and minds of lawyers of our bar.

Now Montgomery County lies to the south and is contiguous with this county by virtue of a panhandle about nine miles wide and twelve miles long which reaches up until it touches Sangamon County on the south.



We are proud of this contiguity since along this panhandle into Sangamon County from Montgomery County has come not only Omer Poos but his distinguished predecessor the Honorable J. Earl Major whose portrait has been hanging right over there since last January.

We have learned here that a litigant seeking a continuance due to inclement weather or icy roads is faced with a real problem, Judge Poos, having traveled some fifty-three miles over the same icy road complained of before the opening of Court may not be so easily persuaded that the litigants cannot make it too.

Now I'm much the lesser of those who will appear before this honorable assembly this morning, those of my colleagues who follow will delineate in some wise the nature and qualities of this man, Omer Poos. I wish the time were permitted to me to speak in detail of this man, but it is not, and if I did so I would be, if not in contempt of this Court, at least in contempt of the next speaker.

I yield, therefore, saying only we welcome those of you who come from beyond the environs of this community. It is our purpose that you have a memorable experience here today, and if there is anything we can do to enhance this experience, we hope that you will

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call upon us. Thank you.

JUDGE HASTINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chapin.

I might say that one of the happy privileges of being the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit is the opportunity on occasion to preside in ceremonies of this character. Some of you may not know but the Seventh Circuit has its own Federal Bar Association. One of the traditions of the Association has been to provide for portraits of all District Judges within the Circuit and arrange for their presentation at an appropriate ceremony.

They have also provided oil paintings of all judges who have ever sat on the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and those now hang in the Courthouse at 1212 Lake Shore Drive.

The judiciary feels a great debt to this fine association, because that is only one of the many services rendered to the members of the bar and to the Federal Courts within the Circuit. It is a most active association. We meet with them jointly one day each year on the occasion of our Seventh Circuit Judicial Conference, and we tell it with a great deal of pride all over the country whenever we get a chance that this is the only bar association of its kind in the United

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States.

It is my privilege at this time to present to you some of these distinguished guests that we have here today, and folks that I'm sure may be known to some, some of whom may be known to all of you.

I would first like to present to you the Honorable Charles G. Briggie, Sr., retired United States District Court, Judge Briggie.

I would next like to present the Honorable Harry B. Hershey, a distinguished justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois, Justice Hershey.

The Honorable Daniel H. Dailey, Circuit Judge of Taylorville, Illinois. Is Judge Dailey here? We had his name, perhaps he hasn't come yet.

The Honorable DeWitt S. Crow, Circuit Judge at Springfield, Illinois, Judge Crow.

The Honorable Samuel O. Smith, Circuit Judge of Girard, Judge Smith.

The Honorable William A. Ginos, Jr. County Judge of Hillsboro. There is the Judge, and he is also the president of the Montgomery Bar Association.

We have a number of the members of the Board of Governors of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association who have made the trip here today from various cities. I

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should first like to present three from the City of Chicago, the first is the Chairman of the Committee on Portraits and Memorials whose duty it will be in the future to arrange for similar ceremonies of this character, Mr. L. Duncan Lloyd.

Mr. Robert C. Williams, who has been the long time Chairman of this Committee and who in fact represented the Association in the arrangements for this ceremony today, Mr. Williams.

Mr. Sidney Neuman, a long time member of the Board of Governors and a past president of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association.

We likewise have three who came from Indianapolis with the president of the Association, I would like to present to you Mr. Sigmund Beck, Mr. Beck served for many years as the Treasurer of the Association, and is now on the Board of Governors.

Mr. William M. Evans, Mr. Evans is currently serving as the Chairman of a similar committee in Indianapolis.

Mr. Karl J. Stipher who is a member of our Board of Governors.

I should like also to present Mr. John Ferguson of East St. Louis, who is a member of the Board

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of Governors.

And Mr. Jacob Geffs of Janesville, Wisconsin, who was the treasurer of our association.

At this time I would like to also present -- my attention has just been called to the fact that Judge Creel Douglass, Circuit Judge of Sangamon County, is here. Would Judge Douglass -- thank you.

Also like to present another gentleman who has had much to do with the local arrangements here, which, as you know, have been provided by the members of the Sangamon County Bar Association, Mr. Charles G. Briggie, Jr., who has been the Chairman of that Committee.

At this time the Court recognizes Mr. Jerry P. Belknap of Indianapolis, the president of the Bar Association of the Seventh Federal Circuit. Mr. Belknap.

MR. JERRY P. BELKNAP: May it please the Court, distinguished judges and guests, fellow members of the bar, ladies and gentlemen: It is a distinct honor to be here with you today, both personally and as the representative of the members of the bar throughout the Seventh Federal Circuit to join in doing honor to Judge Poos.

The ceremony that we are having here represents

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one of the important activities of the bar association of the Seventh Federal Circuit, as Judge Hastings has indicated, because one of the objects for which the association was formed is to provide and present to the Federal Courts within the circuit portraits and photographs of the sitting Federal Judges of whom we are all so proud.

The association has regarded it as a matter of real importance that instead of waiting until the presentation has to be made posthumously, we make the presentation in the judge's own courtroom and in his own presence, so that we can make it an open testimonial to the respect and esteem and affection all of us in our three states have for our splendid judiciary.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the Bar Association of the Seventh Federal Circuit, I might say that it is a bar association for members of the legal profession, both judges and lawyers, from the three states of Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin who are interested in the administration of justice in the Federal Courts in the circuit.

And as this ceremony here today emphasizes, the association is not a mere private club for lawyers who practice before the Court of Appeals and don't give

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a cuss much about anything else except that, it is rather an association of lawyers who are interested in the practice of law, the administration of justice in every Federal Court and Circuit of the District Courts and the Court of Appeals.

Judge Hastings didn't tell the whole story, but there is another reason why these ceremonies are wonderful things for the association, as the Judge mentioned, the bar association of the circuit does assume the happy obligation of controlling and preparing the first day of the joint meeting between the judges and the lawyers at the annual circuit conference. Now I suppose everyone knows that the judges have to be there, which means we have a captive audience, and we have been known to take advantage of it.

And, therefore, it's rather happy to even the score and be able to undertake a presentation such as we have here today to assure them once again that we do love them.

The actual portrait presentation project of the association is handled by the Portraits and Memorials Committee, of whom Mr. Lloyd who has been introduced is now the general chairman, and your own Charles Briggle, Jr. is the Illinois Chairman.

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Robert Williams, who has been introduced, is the member of the Board of Governors who works with this committee, and these men are the real workers of the association who are responsible for our association's part in the ceremony. They have cooperated with the Sangamon County Bar Association.

The portrait itself is a work product of another member of our association, Judge Albert Hallett of Chicago, a long time member, now a judge in Cook County, and at least by avocation a highly talented portrait photographer.

To all of these men, on behalf of the association, I wish publicly to express my thanks and I also wish publicly to extend the association's real gratitude to the Sangamon County Bar Association which has undertaken and is doing a magnificent job of arranging and handling the ceremony here today.

Thank you very much.

JUDGE HASTINGS: Thank you very much, Mr. Belknap.

The committee, I'm sure, has made a happy choice in selecting one to make the official presentation of this portrait. He is a long time personal friend of Judge Poos, they are fellow townsmen, and I have a peculiar feeling of affection for him because I succeeded



him, and I've always been careful not to say that I took his place, on the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He has indulged our court with the courtesy of sitting with us on many occasions. He was with us for a week, the first week in October and took four different opinions home with him to write, and I hope will come back in the winter, if he is in these parts, and he always sits with us some in the spring.

I would certainly be gilding the lily if I attempted to tell you anything about this distinguished senior judge who when he retired assumed senior status, which meant he was available for judicial service, a substantial amount of time, and he has more than fulfilled that obligation since he left the ranks voluntarily as an active judge, and I have great personal pleasure in presenting to you your own neighbor and friend, the Honorable J. Earl Major for this presentation.

HONORABLE J. EARL MAJOR: May it please the Court?

JUDGE HASTINGS: Judge Major.

JUDGE MAJOR: Members of the bar and ladies and gentlemen: First I want to express my gratitude to Judge Hastings for his very complimentary even though greatly exaggerated remarks.

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I appear here this morning in behalf of the Bar Association for the Seventh Federal Circuit, in conjunction with the Sangamon and Montgomery Bar Associations, in an effort to persuade this Court to accept on their behalf a portrait of Judge Omer Poos.

This is the first time I have appeared on this side of this bench for a good many years. I won a good many cases on that side, a good many more than I ever won over here. But my record of winnings on that side was considerably lessened by the action of that august body that presides at 1212 Lake Shore Drive in Chicago.

But I went to that Court in 1937. There were four cases pending, either pending or arrived shortly after I did, that were appealed from this Court, and which I had tried to hear. Of those four the Court affirmed two and believe it or not, with me there in their midst and a member of that fraternity that exists there, they reversed two. I consoled myself at that time with the idea that in one of those cases the Court didn't understand the law, and the other one it didn't understand the facts.

Judges shouldn't be too much disturbed, however, when reversed by higher courts. Reviewing

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courts are not infallible, and while their decisions must be accepted and followed, they are not always right.

More than that, an aggrieved judge has a right to cuss the reviewing court if he so desires, but if he is discreet, of course, he will do that in a diplomatic manner with a soft and easy toned voice.

Judge Hutcheson, who is a member of the Court of Appeals of the Fifth Circuit, and was for a long time Chief Judge of that Circuit, used to tell about a District Judge in his Circuit who became greatly incensed when he was reversed by the Court of Appeals, and he was a fellow that just demonstrated tremendous courage and bravery, he wasn't afraid of the Court of Appeals, he said, or any member of it. He was just as important and had as much or more sense than any of them. One day a friend said to him, he said, well, Judge, you better not do so much talking about that Court, you might get in trouble. No, I'm not afraid of them, he said, when I get a reversal I go out in my chambers, shut the door and lock it, and then he said I just cuss the devil out of them.

It may be in order to make a few remarks relative to the importance of the District Court in the



Federal Judicial System. It has been asserted with some plausibility, I think, that the judges of those courts, although referred to as the judges of the lower courts, are in reality the backbone of the system. Of course we could have some kind of a court system no doubt if we didn't have any reviewing court, but you couldn't have any kind of a system without trial courts. Law and rule makers have given recognition to their importance by making their findings binding on courts of review.

The stature of any court depends in the main upon the image which it creates and leaves with the citizen, and the degree of confidence which the public has in the Federal System depends largely upon the conduct and activities of the District Court Judges.

In fact, they are entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining and promoting good relations between the courts and the general public and the nature of their positions afford them a good opportunity in this respect. Jurors, witnesses, attorneys and many others pass through these courts by the hundreds, all of whom learn something about the administration of justice.

In contrast, only a few witness the work and operation of the higher courts. There are some who



think it is really more important that experienced and able lawyers be placed on the trial bench than any other court. In the District Court the judges often are required to rule immediately on many important questions and issues. In other words, as Justice Sherman Minton said one time, District Judges are required to shoot from the hip. In the reviewing court those same questions and issues are taken under advisement and mulled over for days and sometimes weeks before a conclusion is reached.

Justice Frankfurter in one of his opinions stated if our trial courts are not manned by men of integrity, industry, skill and professional competence, there is very little any appellate court can do to make the system work.

While I emphasize the importance of the District Courts in our Federal system, I do not intend, of course, to minimize the importance of the higher courts. All of these courts working toward a common goal constitute a system which the citizens, regardless of race, color or creed, may look to with confidence for a vindication of his rights.

Dictators have come and gone. World conquerors have lived their short, hectic day and drifted to obliv-

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ion. World emperors have had their day of glory, only to be shattered by the never to be denied demand for freedom. In the end, however, the only hope of a free people, the only thing which binds and holds them together is a great principle chiseled in stone to the entrance of the Supreme Court in Washington, equal justice under the law.

Now it's time and past time that I should give this Court some enlightenment concerning the subject which I am supposed to discuss. This word enlightenment is going to cause me to digress and speak of an incident that took place in the Court of Appeals about twenty-five years ago, back during the days when farm debtor cases were so frequent, cases brought under the Frazier-Lemke Act, the Federal Courts were flooded in those days, as some of you older attorneys remember, and there were many of them before our court in Chicago.

Down in Indiana they had a lawyer by the name of Judge Cook, I expect Judge Hastings remembers him. Judge Cook, I don't remember his first name, but they called him Judge, and he had a lot of those cases before our court, he thought he was a specialist in that line, and he lost a lot of cases there, and on this particular occasion, Judge Sparks was presiding,



Judge Cook had a speech that he made in every case, sort of a Fourth of July sort of speech about how the bankers and the mortgage companies and the finance companies had crushed into the ground the poor downtrodden farmers and so on and so on, and Judge Sparks stopped him one day and he said, Judge Cook, your time is getting pretty well along, are you going to furnish this Court with any enlightenment on this case? Judge Cook stopped and stared at him, he said, Judge Sparks, I'm going to do that very thing. My past experience in this Court leads me to believe that there is no place where enlightenment is so badly needed as here.

Omer Poos, the oldest of six children, was born to Henry and Rosetta McCann Poos on August 22nd, 1902 at Mount Olive, Macoupin County, Illinois. His father was a coal miner and one of the active organizers of the United Mine Workers of America.

After graduating from the -- this thing crawls around if you don't watch it. After graduating from the Mount Olive High School in 1921, Omer decided he wanted to be a lawyer. The financing of a legal education was quite a problem. He worked in the coal mine, and accumulated sufficient funds to pay for his first year in law school at St. Louis University.



He was made law librarian by means of which he financed the remainder of his course at the university, from which he graduated in 1924 within the upper fifteen per cent of his class.

He practiced law in Mount Olive with Mr. Elmer Droste from 1924 to 1927, when he came to Hillsboro as a member of the firm of Dryer and Brown.

In 1939 he opened an office of his own and practiced alone from that time until August 21, 1958 when he was nominated by President Dwight Eisenhower as a Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Thus when Omer Poos came to the bench he had been engaged in the practice of law for thirty-four years. During that time he had become recognized as an able lawyer, and was widely known as a topnotch trial lawyer.

Notwithstanding his ever increasing law practice, he devoted much time to civic activities. I doubt if there are any, certainly there are not many who have given so much of their time and energy and in such an effective manner as Omer Poos.

I shall only mention some of those activities. He was president of the Hillsboro Board of Education for eight years; president of the Hospital Board for



six years, during which time a new addition was built to the hospital; he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County National Bank; and is a Trustee of St. Agnes Catholic Church.

I want Judge Hastings particularly to note I said he was a director of the bank, not is.

As he is greatly interested in sports, I would judge that the effort which afforded him the greatest satisfaction was his leadership in establishing an athletic field for the Hillsboro High School. He persuaded or invited a large number of persons to sign notes on which the banks loaned money to pay for its construction. This indebtedness has since been repaid from admissions, thus the Hillsboro High School and the public are the beneficiaries of this athletic field without any expense to the taxpayers.

Omer Poos served on numerous committees, in aid of the war effort and received a medal from the United States Secretary of the Treasury for his work in connection with the sale of bonds.

He is a possessor of an alumni award from St. Louis University, and is at present a member of its law school advisory council.

He's also serving as one of the fund raisers



for the Pius 12th Library of St. Louis University.

He was married to Virginia Van Liew September 25, 1929, they have one son, Robert, now with Associated Press in St. Louis, and more important, perhaps, they have a granddaughter, Laura Ellen, born February 20th, 1961. And in this connection I desire to remind the Court that Omer Poos can be reasoned with, he's susceptible to reason and sometimes you can induce him to change an opinion, but you just as well understand that when you get into the matter of this granddaughter of his, all the force of earth couldn't change him. He thinks and boldly proclaims that she is the sweetest, dearest, most intelligent granddaughter there is in the world.

Another field in which Omer has been quite active with marked success is the political. I'm not going to discuss this phase of his activity for two reasons, first it might not be appropriate and second I might not be able to from an unbiased and unprejudiced standpoint.

However, since he has been on the bench he has shown a disposition to be nonpartisan. I cite one instance in his favor. He is an avid fisherman, and from the wilds of the north where he had been fishing



he sent a batch of fish by air express to a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. This Chief Justice had dinner a few days afterwards in which these fish were served, and which a distinguished citizen from Independence, Missouri was the guest of honor. This guest ate heartily of Omer's fish, and his strength and vigor and his courage renewed, and the next day he went down to New Jersey where a political campaign was going on, made two speeches in behalf of the democrat candidate for governor, who the next day was elected.

Now who can say my friend, Omer Poos, did not contribute to the election of a democrat governor.

A mere recitation on some of the salient facts concerning the life of Omer Poos is a graphic illustration of the opportunity which this country affords to a person who comes into this world and lives the formative period of his life under humble circumstances. From the coal mines to the high position he now holds is a remarkable achievement. As he traveled this tortuous route he no doubt encountered many obstacles, all of which he swept aside by his burning ambition, a high degree of courage, and an industry which knew no bounds.

There is no occasion to engage in prophecy

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as to what kind of a judge Omer Poos will make. In the five years he's been on the bench, he has already demonstrated that he is a good judge, and I hear many lawyers who practice in his court speak of him highly, and of the manner in which he conducts a court and disposes of business.

I join his many friends in congratulating him upon this occasion, with the hope that he will have many years of good health, and consequently many years to give to the service of this bench.

And now on behalf of the bar association I present a portrait of a judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, the Honorable Omer Poos, with a suggestion that it be assigned to an appropriate place.

Thank you.

JUDGE HASTINGS: Thank you, Judge Major.

Of course, Judge Poos knows that even with that excellent presentation his portrait may not grace this courtroom unless it is so ordered by the Court, and that's one of the reasons we are here this morning. Quite frequently a Court takes a matter under advisement, and studies it for two or three weeks or even longer before it renders a decision. We have a policy in the

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Court of Appeals that we like to dispatch our business as rapidly as possible, although Judge Poos sits here this morning as a member of this Court, I now disqualify him from participating in this decision, and shall turn to my colleague. Do you think we should accept this Judge?

Judge Mercer has considered it, his decision in the matter, and while he may entertain some slight reservations, in the interest of harmony he's willing to vote aye, as I do, and it is now officially ordered, Mr. Clerk, that this very fine portrait of our distinguished colleague be officially accepted and that it be hung in an appropriate place in this courtroom.

I should like personally to add these few words about our distinguished guest here today. We have twenty-three District Judges in the Seventh Circuit, and I would assume that the members of the Court of Appeals perhaps have the best opportunity of anyone to evaluate their work and their decisions. We have, of course, had the opportunity, the occasion to review a number of Judge Poos' decisions, as we have every other District Judge in the Circuit. I think the Court is unanimous in having the opinion that his decisions reflect care, study, judicial discretion, and a most



acceptable view of the facts and the law when he's called upon to make a decision.

But more important we are delighted to know that he has the personal integrity which in the Federal Judiciary we have come to believe is the most essential thing for its preservation and to enable it to properly discharge its constitutional functions.

I've only heard one doubt expressed as to Judge Poos's personal integrity. Judge Major might have enlarged on that when he told of Judge Poos sending those fish to the Chief Justice. He was careful, of course, not to say that Judge Poos had actually caught the fish. From some of the stories that have come back to us about the Judge's fishing experiences and accomplishments, I think there has been a slight doubt in some sources as to complete veracity of some of these reports. However, that's understandable in the case of a fisherman, and since I like to fish and lie myself, I will say no more on that.

Judge Poos has another characteristic that I should like to publicly comment on here this morning, and that is his indefatigable energy and industry in his work. From time to time the Chief Judge of the Circuit is called upon to help solve a crisis that arises some



place within the judicial machinery of the Circuit, because of the incapacity, the illness, the death of some judge, Judge Poos, I'm proud to tell you, has demonstrated a willingness to lend his service where he did not have to, in more instances, I think, within our Circuit than any other District Judge now on the bench in the Circuit. Of that I am doubly appreciative, not only because it lends itself to the administration of justice, but because of the fact that the service that he has performed in these other Courts within the Circuit has been of the high caliber that is characteristic of that which we have here. I should like to pay this tribute to him.

Judge Poos, now that we have officially accepted your portrait, do you have anything to say in your own defense?

JUDGE OMER POOS: Well, I'm going to say welcome to all of you here, judges, lawyers and friends. You can see from what has gone on thus far that membership in the Federal Judiciary is membership in the finest club in the land. I have found that wherever I have been assigned that the Federal Judges all work hard and try to accomplish their end, but I want to say this, that lawyers in Springfield, lawyers in Brooklyn, in Milwaukee or



Chicago, are all lawyers pursuing the purpose of their profession, and I have yet to find in my travels a lawyer who didn't live up to the highest traditions of his profession.

I stated when I took the oath of office in this courtroom that I would want to run this Court for and with lawyers, and that I would work with them as long as they wanted to work. I think that I have demonstrated that, and that we have pretty well kept our docket clear.

This docket in this Court is not an overburdensome docket like you find in the large centers such as Chicago and Milwaukee. With effort and energy the business of this Court can be disposed of in eight or nine months of the year. The Judge draws his salary from the United States and he's paid for twelve months out of the year, and I feel that it's up to the Judge, if he has any integrity about him, to earn that salary, so that's the reason why I have been able to give quite a lot of time to other courts.

There isn't much that I can say today, except to offer thanks first to the Creator for giving me a sound body and a level-headed mind and the longevity of life to be here, so I thank Him.

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I want to thank Chief Judge John S. Hastings for disrupting the work of an overloaded Court to come down here today.

I want to thank Mr. Jerry Belknap for taking his valuable time in coming down here today.

I want to thank Mr. Williams, the Portrait Committee, for coming down here today, and you folks know, of course, I was a member of this Federal Bar Association long before I was a Judge, I want to thank the Federal Bar Association for presenting this portrait of myself to the Court.

And I want to also, in his absence, thank Judge Hallett for doing such a good job on such a poor subject.

I see here many friends today, Judge Hershey has taken the time to come over here from the Supreme Court of Illinois, Judge Hershey, I thank you for giving me your valuable time.

Judge Sam Smith, Judge DeWitt Crow, Judge Creel Douglass, Judge Bill Ginos from Montgomery County, I want to thank all of you for thinking enough of me to come up here and attend this ceremony.

And I see out in the audience many of my friends who are members of the Sangamon County Bar

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Association, and I certainly thank them and their committee and their president, Mr. Chapin, and Mr. Briggie for helping put on this job, and I thank every member of the Sangamon County Bar Association for not only being here today, but for all the fine treatment they have given me in the past.

I want to thank my own fellows from the Montgomery County who are up here.

Judge Hastings, there are lawyers here from Montgomery County, Elbert Butler, Herbert Dey and Judge Ginos, and I can't see all of them out there, but they are all men that I lived with, that I practiced law with, and their word was always good as was mine. Those are the kind of friends and lawyers that really make a lawyer's life enjoyable.

I see two particular friends here today, although there are many from Montgomery County, my old friend Dr. George Telford is here, George, will you stand up and take a bow?

Then I have another fine friend here from Raymond, Illinois, Sam Sorrels, Sam Sorrels and I have been friends and business associates together for over thirty-five years. Sam, will you stand up and take a bow?

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There are many other people here that I could introduce, but those are two of my special friends and I want everybody to know that they are here.

Now with those words, I hope that I haven't -- I want to thank Judge Major for making this fine presentation. I think all of you know that there was a conspiracy in what he said as to what went into that presentation between not only himself, Judge Major, but also his secretary.

Mr. Chapin, I again thank the Sangamon County Bar Association for taking this burden of doing this job today.

Judge Hastings, with those remarks, that's about what I have to say.

JUDGE HASTINGS: Thank you, sir.

The Court also recognizes many distinguished lawyers here who appear in our Court. I might say for the benefit of you folks who may not know it, Sangamon County Bar Association bears a very fine reputation for its professional character and ability, and your clients are well represented in our Court by some of these gentlemen.

I think Mr. Briggles has some announcements he would like to make.

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MR. BRIGGLE: May it please the Court, I know that John Chapin would want me to express the appreciation of the Sangamon County Bar Association to Judge Hastings and Jerry Belknap and Judge Major and all the program participants, and to all of our guests in the audience this morning for your attendance and indication of respect to a very fine member of the judiciary.

Following the adjournment by Judge Hastings of the ceremony, there will be, as you know, a luncheon at the Leland Hotel across the street in the ballroom, and we have more or less suggested to the hotel that we would try to be there sometime around 12:15. I think there will be no problem about taking care of anyone who is able to come, whether you have a reservation or not. Obviously in courtesy to those who do have reservations, we have to, if there is any crowding, try to seat them first, but we do invite all of you to come to the Leland Hotel in the ballroom immediately following this ceremony.

And I would suggest that in deference to -- Judge Hastings, to Mr. Chapin's falling hair, so that he will lose no more, I think a degree of reasonable promptness might be in order.

JUDGE HASTINGS: Well that will cause the Court

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to amend its final holding, to show you that we are responsive to the suggestions of the Bar, normally it's been a tradition to have the Judge, following adjournment, stand by his portrait and receive the congratulations of his friends. I shall still ask Judge Poos to do that, and ask those of his friends who will not be at the luncheon, to take advantage of this opportunity to speak to him, and those of you who will be at the luncheon may do it at that time.

The ceremony for which this special session of this Court was convened having been completed, the Court will now stand adjourned.

(Whereupon at 12:15 P.M. Court was adjourned.)

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT)
OF THE HONORABLE OMER POOS)

I, Walter R. Matthiesen, do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the above-entitled proceedings and that the foregoing 31 pages is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid.

Walter R. Matthiesen

Dated this 26th day of
November, A.D., 1963, at
Springfield, Illinois

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