

UNVEILING AND PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT OF

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THE HONORABLE GEORGE L. HART, JR.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1976

WASHINGTON, D. C.

(The ceremony commenced at 4:10 p.m.)

CHIEF JUDGE WILLIAM B. JONES: Ladies and gentlemen:

We are delighted you are here, Judge Hart's friends and colleagues, and I want at this time to present a man ~~everybody knows so well, Tom Jackson, the Chairman of this~~  
Ad Hoc Committee of Judge Hart's Friends.

Tom.

THOMAS S. JACKSON, ESQ.: This is a very exciting experience. I have always wanted to present a picture of a judge to a court and this is an event of some moment.

We have had an oil portrait made of George Luzerne Hart, Jr., whom most of us know as George, and who came up through the ranks of the Bar of the District of Columbia. Also, his father before him some of the oldest of us remember as a contributor to the administration of justice as a reporter of proceedings in this court and its predecessors.

We loved him as a lawyer and we love him as a judge. We have been impressed with the courtesy and dignity he has extended to all of the lawyers who regard themselves as officers of his and your courts. There is no need of a biographical sketch or encomium in this gathering.

The idea of this portrait was conceived when he finished his term as Chief Judge of the United States District Court. It was thought that it would be a nice thing if his picture appeared with those of the other distinguished members

of this and the other courts in the courthouse, It was mentioned to one or two of his friends and then to two or three more, and finally, within a very small circle, some seventy-six of his old friends from the Bar, lawyers who have appeared before him in his court, have formed themselves into what we lightly call a "committee". They have let me be chairman of it.

We take this opportunity of presenting this portrait to the courthouse of the District of Columbia to honor not only him but all of the judges, and to the end that his likeness, as one whom we regard as one of our great judges, will be preserved in the courthouse so long as the courthouse exists.

This portrait was done by an artist whose name is Don Stivers and who now lives in Connecticut. He has painted portraits of numberless famous people, including one who was tried (and acquitted) in Judge Hart's court.

Therefore, I would like to ask that Mr. Davey take steps to arrange to have it unveiled.

We hereby deliver this portrait to you, Chief Judge Jones, on behalf of the courthouse and on behalf of those who have called themselves the Committee.

CHIEF JUDGE JONES: Thank you, Mr. Jackson, and the Ad Hoc Committee of Judge Hart's friends.

On behalf of the United States District Court judges, I most gratefully accept this portrait of Judge Hart. We shall

certainly see that it is placed in a prominent position.

I don't know whether you know that in this area of the city there are three art galleries, Mellon, Hirshhorn and the Hart Art Gallery.

The Hart Art Gallery came about as a result of George looking around in various cupboards and closets and finding a lot of old portraits of District Court judges. He is now busy having them retouched and we are going to hang them sooner or later -- we hope sooner -- in the Ceremonial Courtroom and that will be known as the Hart Gallery.

In speaking of Judge Hart to his friends about who he is and what he has done is a matter of telling everybody what they all know.

For the purpose of the record, since Tom Jackson said that the Bar loves you, I think, George, that should be permanently in the record and it will be so kept.

So let me only add that we judges are extremely proud of Judge Hart, that he has made so much of a contribution to the court and to all of us and to our well-being, and, we are satisfied, to the Bar and the administration of justice.

We know the distinguished career he has had from the time he came to the Bar in 1930, in his private practice years, and his outstanding career in the military service, and since 1958 serving this court with great distinction.

In 1974 to 1975 he served as the Chief Judge and

certainly he was an outstanding Chief Judge.

So, on behalf of the court, I thank you, Mr. Jackson, and all the members of the committee. This portrait shall always remind all of us of him and of all of his great qualities.

I might say, Mr. Jackson, that Judge Hart's portrait will be here longer than the courthouse, because Judge Hart even scrounged around and found portraits that were in other courthouses which courthouses served this court in earlier years.

Anyhow, it belongs to this court. It will always be with the court. Thank you very much.

When we started to arrange this affair, of course I spoke to the man who did the posing for this portrait and he said, "It's simply got to be an informal gathering." I told him that the Ceremonial Courtroom was there for him. He said, "No, I am not going to stand for that at all."

And, he added, "If anybody wishes, I will be delighted to see them all, the lawyers and judges and their wives and other associates here in the courthouse in the dining room of the courthouse." So I agreed, of course.

Today I wasn't quite sure what he was going to do. Walking out of the lunch room I said, "You have to say a few words, George. It's going to be that formal anyhow." He has agreed to say a few words.

Judge Hart.

JUDGE HART: It isn't very often, as most of you know, that I find it difficult to know what to say.

The truth of the matter is I am kind of overwhelmed, I participated in five invasions and never was this nervous before.

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Of course I am highly honored, I am terribly appreciative and this I am sure none of you will believe -- I am very humble.

I just really don't know how to say it. As I say, I am completely overwhelmed. I deeply appreciate it. I thank each and every one of you. It's the kind of thing I never expected and that's about all I can say.

MR. JACKSON: George, you can say one thing. Tell us if you like the portrait or do we have to do it over?

JUDGE HART: I like it very much.

JUDGE GERHARD A. GESELL: Lou?

CHIEF JUDGE JONES: Please come forward.

JUDGE GESELL: We ought to give Lou a vote for keeping you so young.

CHIEF JUDGE JONES: Won't you say a word or two?

JUDGE GESELL: Do you like it, Lou?

MRS. HART: I like it very much and I must say I like the idea. I think everyone has been so kind. I can assure you when he said he was speechless he really was.

CHIEF JUDGE JONES: Ladies and gentlemen, now that

is the formal-informal part of the program. There are some refreshments over there at the table we wish you would all join in with us here.

Thank you,

(Whereupon, the ceremony concluded at 4:20 p.m.)

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