

Experience in Lower Court Procedure Lacking In U. S. Supreme Court's Personnel

By PETER EDSON

NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON.—Records of present Supreme Court Justices reveal a surprising lack of judicial experience before appointment to the highest tribunal. Confirmation of Fred M. Vinson as Chief Justice will make him the man with most lower court background. It's a mere five years. Four of them were spent as Associate Justice of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. The fifth year was spent as Chief Judge of the Emergency Court of Appeals for Price Control. Vinson apparently did all right. There were no complaints. But there was nothing about his record that was in any way distinguished.

The only other justice with any experience on the bench prior to his Supreme Court appointment is Wiley Rutledge. He also served four years on the D. C. Court of Appeals.

But that's the sum total—nine years of judicial experience—an average of one year per member. Maybe that isn't quite accurate either. Justice Hugo LaFayette Black served 18 months as a police court judge in Birmingham back around 1910. It would make even a Philadelphia lawyer sweat, however, to prove that saying "Thirty days" and "\$10 and costs" to a bunch of drunks and bums qualified a man to become senior justice on the Supreme Court of the United States. Black's other legal experience was a county prosecutor for two years, a general practice lawyer for six and a U. S. senator for 12. A distinguished career, no doubt, but not what it should take to make a top judge.

Others Also Lacking

The same is true of all the others. Justice Stanley Reed, before appointment to the Supreme Court in 1938, served as counsel for a couple of alphabet agencies and as U. S. Solicitor General for three years. Justice William O. Douglas served three years on the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Felix Frankfurter and Wiley Rutledge were both professors of law, the former at Harvard, the latter at Colorado, Iowa and Washington University in St. Louis. Frankfurter even declined Gov. Ely's appointment to the Massachusetts Supreme Court in 1932.

Frank Murphy and Robert H. Jackson were former attorneys general. Murphy was in politics as governor of Michigan and the Philippines. Jackson, like Reed, had also been U. S. Solicitor General.

Harold H. Burton was a lawyer and mayor of Cleveland, then U. S. senator from Ohio for only

Ouster of Senator Bilbo Demanded by Negroes

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Aug. 21.—(AP)—Petitions to unseat Senator Bilbo (D-Miss.), to "outlaw the Ku Klux Klan in the United

States" and to pass a federal anti-lynching law have been signed by several hundred physicians attending the convention of the National Negro Medical Association here. The petitions already have been signed by 400,000 persons

all over the country, it was announced.

One of the petitions, criticizing Bilbo's recent radio broadcast in which he urged "red-blooded Anglo-Saxons in Mississippi to resort to any means to keep all Negroes from voting in the primary election," asks that the U. S. senate deny a seat to Bilbo for "disorderly behavior."

New Miracle Drug Aids Boys in Typhoid Battle

MEDFORD, Aug. 21.—(AP)—The two sons of Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Cranston, Donny, 5, and Larry, 8, ill with typhoid fever, are much improved, their mother reported today.

The boys were treated with the new miracle drug streptomycin when they were running temperatures of 104 degrees. Mrs. Cranston said the drug was provided without cost by manufacturers to obtain data for their records.

Stetson Strike Ended

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 21.—(AP)—A nine-day strike of 2,000 Stetson Hat Company workers was over today after a labor-management agreement was reached to send the dispute to arbitration.

Mokelumne Hill Fire Destroys Four Buildings

MOKELUMNE HILL, Calif., Aug. 21.—(AP)—Fire wiped out nearly a fourth of the business section of this old mining town, which last month was rocked by a bomb explosion.

No one was injured in the blaze which swept the main block in the center of town and destroyed four buildings—a two-story building which housed the post-office and a library; a two-story stone structure of the Calaveras Electric Company, the John A. Rollins Refrigeration Company and a building used by the assay office and the printing plant of the Calaveras weekly.

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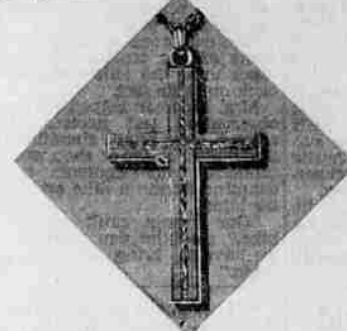
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