

Judge KENNEDY. Mr. Justice Van Devanter. He was one of the greatest justices on the court for achieving a compromise among the justices.

When they were searching for a common point of agreement, Mr. Justice Van Devanter could find it.

He did not produce a lot of the opinions of the Court, because he found it very difficult to write; he was a slow writer.

But he was valued very, very highly by all of his colleagues.

Senator SIMPSON. That is very interesting. Thank you so much, Judge.

Judge KENNEDY. Thank you, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me ask you a question about history, and I am not being facetious when I ask this.

Didn't Justice Black, when he was Senator Black, also carry a book with a list of all his supporters and contributors? A little book?

I am told that Justice Black, when he was a Senator, literally carried a book—was it Black? He was Senator Black from Alabama that had a list of all his supporters.

So every county he went into, he would take out his little book. And he would know exactly who had helped him in the previous election. He carried that with him all the time, I was told.

Judge KENNEDY. I am not aware of that. He was from Clay County in Alabama.

The CHAIRMAN. Maybe our Alabamian at the end of the row could clarify it when we get to that.

Senator HEFLIN. It would have had to have been the Encyclopedia Britannica.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I was told it was his contributors, but I will move on to the great State of Vermont. Senator Leahy.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to delay, but when Judge Kennedy and my friend Al Simpson talk about Hugo Black, I remember when I was in law school. I'm sure you remember a lot of things about law school, we all do, but for me one thing really stands out the most of all the matters in law school. Because we were right here in town, Georgetown, the law school, decided to have a luncheon inviting all the Supreme Court justices. They all accepted on one condition: there not be a head table. We were going to be in a bunch of small, round tables, and it would be run by either the student bar or something of the law school. They would draw lots, and different justices would sit at different tables. And that was the only way they would do it, so they could sit with the students.

So we drew lots, and I ended up sitting next to Justice Hugo Black whom I had never met but just seen in the Court. And at the last minute one of the other students was sick. My wife came with me. And it was the most fascinating thing in 3 years of law school. He had no idea I was going to sit there. I mentioned I was from Vermont. And he said, oh yes. He said, Franklin—the first time he said it, I didn't realize he meant, of course, President Roosevelt—he said, Franklin sent me to Vermont to campaign during a contested election.

He told me the towns he went to—this was back in the 1930s. Who he campaigned for. And what the votes were, the numbers.