

---

P R O C E E D I N G S

BEFORE THE

Supreme Court of New Jersey

IN MEMORY OF

Justice Vincent S. Haneman

June 7, 1978

---

CHIEF JUSTICE HUGHES: The Court is organized this afternoon by way of a memorial to one of its distinguished former members, Justice Vincent Haneman. We will recognize the President of the New Jersey State Bar Association, Joseph Rodriguez, for the purpose of a motion and introduction.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: May it please the Court. At this time, on behalf of the New Jersey State Bar Association, I would like the privilege to call upon the Honorable Leon Leonard, retired Superior Court Judge from Atlantic County, to make a presentation on behalf of the State Bar.

CHIEF JUSTICE HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Rodriguez. The Court would be glad to hear from Judge Leonard.

JUDGE LEONARD: Mr. Chief Justice, Justices all, President Rodriguez, Mrs. Haneman, ladies and gentlemen, I rise on this solemn occasion with mixed emotions. Honored and pleased to have been selected by the New Jersey State Bar Association as its representative to deliver this eulogy, but saddened by the loss of a close personal friend, the late Justice Vincent S. Haneman, who passed away on January 10, 1978.

---

We gather here today to briefly memorialize, for the record of this Court, one who for so long was our friend, our colleague and a servant of the law. However, we are inspired in this presentation equally by the admiration and respect we had for the man, Vincent S. Haneman.

To outline the many useful years of his life merely highlights the varied facets of his career.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 25, 1902. Soon thereafter he migrated to our State and graduated from East Orange High School in 1919. Following his graduation from Syracuse University with the degree of LL.B. in 1923, he was admitted as an attorney in 1924 and as a counsellor in 1928.

His love for people and public endeavors brought him to membership on the Board of Education of the city of his residence, Brigantine. Thereafter, he served with distinction as Mayor of that fair city for an eight-year period.

As his interest in the public broadened, he was elected to and served in the New Jersey Assembly as a representative of Atlantic County from 1938 to 1944. I was indeed fortunate to be his colleague therein for the last four years. It was during that period of the "Haneman-Leonard" legislative team that I learned the full potentials of "Vince" and learned to admire, respect, and yes, love him.

During this service he was a co-sponsor of the enabling legislation which ultimately resulted in legalized pari-mutuel betting on horse races in this State and he ably served as the first counsel to the New Jersey Racing Commission from 1940 to 1944. In spite of his busy public duties, Vince did not neglect his law practice. He was recognized throughout the State as a very competent trial lawyer and advocate. He constantly maintained his membership and his activity in the Atlantic County, New Jersey State, American and International Bar Associations.

In 1944 he began his long judicial career, then being appointed Common Pleas Judge of Atlantic County. He served

---

outstandingly in that position until his appointment as a Vice Chancellor in 1947. Upon the advent of the new judicial system, he became a Superior Court Judge in September 1948 and was assigned to the Chancery Division. He sat in that court for ten years. It was during this period that he reached judicial maturity. His numerous written opinions, published in the old New Jersey Equity volumes and in the new Superior Court reports, clearly demonstrate his complete understanding of the law and keen ability to quickly reach the core issue involved. Doing justice between litigants and equitably resolving their differences was his everyday routine. He truly was an "Equity" Judge.

In February 1958, he was advanced to the Appellate Division wherein he sat for over two and a half years. Again, he demonstrated his rare knowledge of the variety of legal problems that came before him in that court.

Thus, in November 1960 he was rightly appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, reappointed in 1967 and served thereon until his retirement in 1971. His persuasive and well-reasoned opinions written for the majority, as well as his strong independent dissents, added materially to the luster and reputation of your Court.

The strength of that independence is remarkably demonstrated by the following quote from his concurring opinion written in the now famous case of *Jackman v. Bodine*, 43 N. J. 453, 479 (1964). He said, "There comes a time in the career of practically every judge when he must embrace a theory of law to which he does not personally subscribe. This occurs by virtue of the establishment thereof by some superior authority. Under our judicial system, this is entirely proper because such a mandate is the basis and the essence of the stability of our law. That, however, is not to say that he is rendered mute by force of superior precedents. He continues to have the privilege, and on occasion the obligation, to expose his respectful disagreement, while at the same time acceding to administer the letter of the law as so

---

directed. I conceive that although I am bound by the construction of the United States Constitution by the United States Supreme Court, my oath and my office as a Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court require that I express my disagreement where such construction, in my opinion, impinges upon the constitutional rights of the citizens of this State. I now find myself in that position. I therefore vote with the balance of this Court in the matter *sub judice* because of the interpretation of that document by the United States Supreme Court." He then brilliantly outlined the basis for his disagreement with that opinion.

History will record Justice Haneman among the outstanding members of the Court.

Upon retiring, he immediately reassociated himself with the State Bar Association and served actively as a Trustee thereof until 1975. At that time his love for the bench and his old Court of Equity conquered all, and with his consent he was recalled to sit, and did reside in the Chancery Division in Burlington and Atlantic Counties. Unfortunately, that term was cut short by failing health.

In my earnest desire to adequately portray the 27-year tenure of Judge and Justice Haneman, I fear I have neglected Vince the man and I hastily return to that portrayal.

A large man physically, with a booming voice and a strong handshake; an expanding personality and a heart as big as himself; possessed of an extraordinary sense of humor. Who among you do not recall his limericks, his stories and his anecdotes told in his inimitable fashion with a twinkle in his eye and culminating in his hearty laugh. His colleagues on the bench all remember well that the morning conference commenced, not with analysis of judicial precedents, but with a comical or ethnic joke or, and I quote, "There was a young man from." . . . And I leave it to your respective imaginations to finish that quote.

And then we turn to the other side of this man's personality, the quiet man. He loved the company of his family.

---

He was highly devoted to his wife, his two sons, and his grandchildren and enjoyed many hours with them at home. He was an avid reader and loved music. Much of his spare time was spent in solitude among the multi-colored flowers of his beautiful garden or birdwatching as an active member of the National Audubon Society. It is fitting and proper that we pause today to pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Vincent S. Haneman — the public servant — the Judge — the Justice — the man. May his lifestyle be an inspiration to all of us. Thank you, gentlemen.

CHIEF JUSTICE HUGHES: Thank you very much, Judge Leonard.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Court receives this presentation with very sincere thanks to Judge Leonard who was very close to Justice Haneman; I think we could sense that. He is deeply moved, as I am sure all of us are this afternoon.

Many of Justice Haneman's former colleagues from the Appellate Division are present, but in such numbers that I won't detain you by mentioning them separately. I should say, however, that three former occupants of this bench I see here: Justice Nathan Jacobs; Justice Haydn Proctor and Justice John Francis. Also, Assignment Judge George Francis has come up here for this observance. I think Justice Schettino may be here also. I hadn't seem him earlier.

I think, knowing Justice Haneman, that he would not wish this to be too somber an occasion, but rather one of thinking back over the years of very pleasant memories of a person as to whom Judge Leonard rightly said, you can hardly separate the man from the Judge and the Justice. I think that one of the recollections I have that might be of interest to you occurred some 15 years ago when, in 1963, New Jersey was embarked upon the celebration of a great tercentenary occasion. Paul Troast, the late Paul Troast, was our Chairman and all kinds of affairs were arranged, one of which revolved around the Brigantine Light House, I think

---

it is. On a very cold New Year's Eve I was Governor and I was supposed to preside at a meeting in the Assembly Chamber which included some folk dances and so forth by some alleged descendants of the Delaware tribe of Indians who had been brought here, I think, from Canada. At the same time, there was supposed to be an historic occasion at the Brigantine Light House. A gentleman's understanding existed that the late Senator Frank Farley would preside at that. Senator Farley advised me at the last moment that he would be otherwise engaged, I think at an establishment owned by a man named Trench in Atlantic City, and we cast about for a substitute. And the likely substitute was Justice Vincent Haneman. In later years we often laughed about that, especially about how cold it was, and how inappropriate it was for Justice Haneman to be inured at the Brigantine Light House on that freezing cold night.

I imagine that the people in this room have, in the back of their respective recollections, many, many other like instances.

I had the good fortune to visit Justice Haneman once in a while informally, because Justice Haneman was always inclined to be most informal. My last conversation with him, when I called to wish him the compliments of the season, was not too long before he and Mrs. Haneman left for a sojourn in Florida, and unhappily he passed away en route. But he was bubbling with enthusiasm and anticipation of this respite. He spoke of his plans, and I think that if one had a choice, probably, under those circumstances, it's well to pass away, if you must, at the very crest. Justice Haneman, as you have read between the lines of what Judge Leonard says about him, was for many years on a very high crest of approval and admiration, and I would say great affection on a personal basis, by many people in this State.

I don't know whether any of the other members of the Court wish to add to that. If they do, they're welcome to do so, but I anticipate no dissent in telling you that we are

---

very grateful, indeed, to the State Bar Association and to Judge Leonard and for all of you friends who have come here.

I now see United States District Court Judge Stanley Brotman, who I had expected to be here. I hadn't seen him before.

We're going to recess now, and I want to invite all those here, if they wish, to informally stay in the courtroom in order to greet Mrs. Haneman and other members of the family. And, by the same token, the members of our Court I know would want to come out and see many of you for that same purpose.

The Court will stand adjourned.