

FREEDOM HOUSE



WILLKIE MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 WEST 40 STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
LONGACRE 5-3344

June 30, 1954

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Mr. Justice Jackson
United States Supreme Court
Washington 13, D. C.

Dear Mr. Justice:

Freedom House believes that the Supreme Court enormously aided the American philosophy of Life and Government by its recent Segregation Decision. It is difficult to recall a judgment more important to the country and, eventually, more beneficial to its residents.

Accordingly, Freedom House is unveiling a plaque as a memorial of this great occasion. It will be unveiled at the Annual Dinner on Sunday, 3 October, 1954.

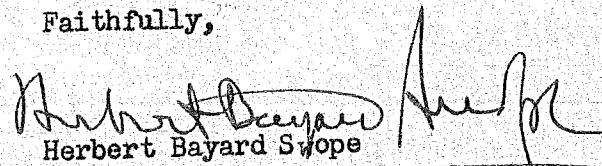
No member of the Court is being asked to speak on his performance of a duty, but all are being asked to attend the Dinner as special guests. So, in behalf of Freedom House, I invite you and Mrs. Jackson to be our guests at the Waldorf-Astoria at 7:00 on Sunday, 3 October. We shall be happy to provide transportation and hotel accommodations upon your acceptance.

We are hopeful that the unanimity of the Court on this vital matter will be testified to by your presence. It has brought new dignity to the Judiciary element of our Government that is the highlight of the tribute we are intending.

I should be glad to have your reply at your convenience.

With the warm congratulations of Freedom House and with my personal regard

Faithfully,


Herbert Bayard Swope

HBS: jm

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C.

July 12, 1954

Mr. Herbert Bayard Swope
Freedom House
Wilkie Memorial Building
20 West 40th Street
New York 18, New York

My dear Herbert:

Your letter of June 30 inviting the members of the Court to the unveiling of a plaque as a memorial to the recent segregation decision troubles me. I think the Court has only done its duty and nothing beyond the line of duty and that it hardly becomes the Justices to participate in a memorial to their own work.

I will tell you a story. I went to the Convention which nominated Seabury for Governor and was one of an Upstate delegation urging Murphy to name him. He asked me what would get Seabury votes from Chautauqua County, and I mentioned the decision of the Court of Appeals upholding the Workmen's Compensation law in an opinion written by Seabury. "Was the decision right?" Murphy asked. "Of course it was," I said. And Murphy asked, "Can you run a judge for Governor on the ground that he has made a right decision?"

Every now and then someone wants to honor a judge for some particular decision or philosophy. I think it is quite different than a general approval of his workmanship as may be indicated by some honors which are not tied to particular cases.

I do not know how the other Justices react to this, but for myself, I think I will have to decline. I do this the more reluctantly because I know how sincerely the invitation is proffered.

With high regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE
745 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

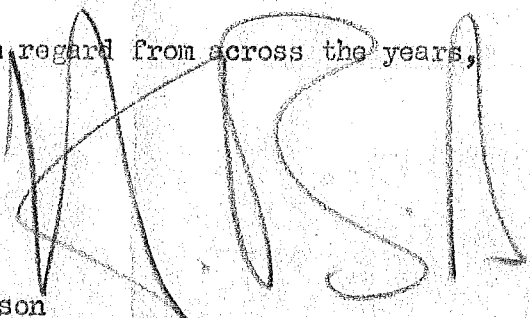
19 July 1954

Dear Bob:-

I cannot disagree with the underlying principle of your letter of 12 July concerning the tribute Freedom House wanted to pay to the High Court.

However, on our own we are erecting a memento to the ruling which we plan to unveil at the dinner. Ralph Bunche is to make the speech. Sorry you won't be here.

My warm regard from across the years,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'HBSA', is written over the typed text of the letter.

Mr. Justice Jackson
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C.