

November 1, 1968

Mr. Secretary:

In connection with the award ceremony on Monday at 2 p.m. for Judge Furber:

1. Medal and papers to be handed to him. I'm delivering these to Jane Life. They involve the citation, the Distinguished Service Award certificate, and the medal.

2. Biographical information. A bundle is attached, presenting more than you'll want to know. In essence --

-- He served as Chief Justice of the High Court of the Trust Territory from 1948 until his retirement earlier this year.

-- Judge Furber is really responsible, almost singlehandedly, for creating the Trust Territory's judicial system. He was instrumental in its initial organization, and in establishing (and later changing from time to time) its rules of procedure. He has brought the rule of law to the Trust Territory.

-- He is also responsible for whatever training Micronesian judges, trial assistants, and court personnel have had. He has run seminars, training sessions, etc., the length and breadth of the Trust Territory.

-- The Micronesians hold the judicial branch in high regard, largely because of him. He always insisted, for example, on wearing a judicial robe when he held court, even if the temperature were a jillion degrees, and even though he sat in dreadful, leaking, appalling court house buildings.

-- There can't be a judge on earth who's covered a larger area in holding sessions -- sometimes going by canoe to remote islands, and sleeping in tents once there. He's been in constant motion for over 20 years.

-- He's a wonderfully genuine Yankee -- Harvard College, Harvard Law School, born in Newton, retired near Boston. (I'm personally aware of him as a long-ago pillar in the American Unitarian Association, which also fits.) He is an authentic crusty New Englander. His wife is as genuine a Yankee. She will be here too.

-- He was retired in January 1968, but stayed on until May to finish up pending cases.

-- We originally got him from the Navy, when the Trust Territory came to Interior in 1951. Many would suggest that he was a particularly useful part of the package.

3. Social aspects. I'm attaching a list of the invitees. The names you don't recognize are of people in Washington who were formerly associated with Judge Furber in the Trust Territory. I'm also attaching an invitation to you to join us, just after the ceremony in your office, for sherry in my office. Please note the unladylike PS, which I think so great it must be shared.

It's marvelous of you to be willing to present this award personally to Judge Furber. It really will mean an enormous amount to him, and indirectly to lots of people in and out of the Trust Territory.