



PRESIDENT AND EX-BOSS
... Hobbs, left, with Justice Black

State Bar seems

BY FRANCES SPOTSWOOD
News staff writer

The Alabama State Bar Association demonstrated a "let's go" attitude toward court and legal reforms during its three-day meeting in Birmingham.

The reaction was evident in sessions dealing with simplification of civil court rules, with modification of criminal law, and with legal ethics.

Results of the forward-looking assembly of state lawyers may have far-reaching effects during the next year or so, but the 93rd annual convention undoubtedly will be remembered as the one with the Justices.

U. S. SUPREME Court Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Senior Justice Hugo Black came and captivated everyone who managed to get

near them. The justices had the able assistance of their charming wives.

It was obvious from the moment the four got off their plane Friday that the visit to Birmingham was a pleasure trip and no earth-shaking news developments should be expected.

Even the rumors that the 84-year-old justice from Alabama might choose the occasion to announce his retirement after 33 years on the Supreme Court bench were swiftly refuted when Chief Justice Burger toasted his colleague with the words, "May he have a long term at my right hand on the bench where I now sit."

The justices were jovial as they joked with and about each other.

BURGER COMPLAINED that the pretty stewardesses spent the flight making a fuss over Black. "Obviously they thought I was your law clerk," he jibed at his older friend.

Justice Black joined in the laughter, but refused to smile at a comment on the hot weather. "You know it gets hotter than this in Washington," he objected.

Asked whether he was always addressed as Mr. Chief

Justice, he perfectly glint in

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REUNION WITH 'THE BOSS'

For Hobbs, honor, prestige

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For Montgomery Atty. Truman Hobbs the prestige of having been law clerk to U. S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black almost out-weighed the honor of becoming president of the Alabama State Bar Association.

Highlight of the three-day State Bar meeting in Birmingham was the arrival Friday of Justice and Mrs. Black with Chief Justice and Mrs. Warren E. Burger.

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IT WAS A WARM reunion for the law clerk and the justice but when Hobbs introduced Justice Black at the annual banquet Friday night, the new State Bar president couldn't resist a tongue-in-cheek accusation against his ex-boss.

"He has been a vigorous opponent of discrimination in employment practices, but notice he discriminates for a Southern accent in hiring his law clerks. In fact an Ala-

HE RECALLS THAT year with the Supreme Court senior justice as one of hard work.

"Justice Black is the hardest worker I have ever seen. His dedication and that of the other justices made a lasting impression on me," Hobbs said.

The close relationship between Hobbs and his former employer was emphasized in remarks made by Justice Black.

He welcomed the opportunity to greet many of his former law clerks, saying, "You know a judge does begin to feel his clerk is part of his family during the close association."

FROM THIS ASSOCIATION with Justice Black, Hobbs must have caught the hard-working habit.

The new ASBA president combines his law practice in Montgomery, where he has been since 1951, with service on a variety of committees and commissions.

He succeeded outgoing President Patrick W. Richardson of Huntsville.

The new president was not ready to initiate any new ASBA projects but said the State Bar will continue to work for court reforms in cooperation with other groups such as the State Supreme Court and the Alabama Law Institute.

Other officers elected for the coming year included Bob Albritton of Andalusia, first vice president.