# STATES-ITEN not of promise but of cynicism

ed to, the freshness and promise of a acres of marble and granite gleaming in soms, the parks set out with flowers, the in Washington is even more intense than remembered. The sudden heat, the blosnew country. the sun: It all suggests, as it was intend-

appeal to a mean self-interest; their nararouse their country or the world. They cynicism. Its politicians offer no faith to For this is a city not of promise but of congruous now, the symbolism so awry. But the physical setting seems so in-

row aim is to defend their own position. In the week of this sudden, life-giving



Secretary Rogers Attempts at banter

\*From NYTimes' version:

WASHINGTON-The beauty of spring spring an American secretary of State when the hard questions were asked. ese when they are dropped: kill people. nam without the slightest sign of awareness that American bombs kill Vietnamtestified for hours about the war in Vieta hopeless case in whose framing he had Like a junior lawyer sent out to argue tempts at banter or changed the subject no part, he fell back on pathetic at-

The Secretary of Defense whose planes have dropped more than one ton of bombs on Indochina for every minute of the Nixon Administration accused the North Vietnamese of "marauding all

#### Sense of loss

In this same week of spring there was an event, little noted except by those intithe sense of loss in Washington. It was a memorial ceremony at the Supreme Court for Justice Black. mately concerned with it, that sharpened

ment to the American ideal of an open society, his dedication to the court. But Black's humanity. meaningful when it dwelt on Hugo passion for the Constitution, his commit-Distinguished lawyers spoke of Black's

another one-time law clerk of Black. point of "The Greening of America," the book by Prof. Charles Reich of Yale, Louis F. Oberdorfer, read out to the assembled members of the Supreme Court memorial resolution. He spoke at one bar a tribute that they adopted as a A former law clerk to the justice,

### In the margin

Black had read the book, Oberdorfer

sively that "Consciousness I," his term said. In one passage Reich said dismismined by character, morality, hard work still possible and that success is deterty, "believes that the American dream is for the original American view of socie-

# Anthony Lewis

and self-denial." Black wrote in the margin: "I still do."  $^{\prime\prime}$ 

the Nixon Administration accused the North Vietnamese of "marauding all tionship with his late colleague John over the countryside of Southeast Asia." \* Marshall Harlan, whom he loved despite that he would not worry about giving stitution — Formulas that would limit judges' power of interpretation. But Black often remarked, Oberdorfer said, a totally different constitutional outlook. Black's search for absolutes in the Con-Harlan. power to judges if they were all like John Part of their disagreement was over

## Beings of depth

Black—was character. furter, who fought so many battles with in common — and earlier Felix Frank-What Hugo Black and John Harlan had

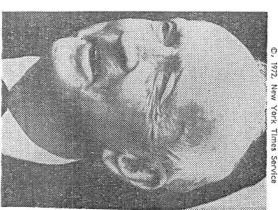
On the day of the memorial to Black, the Supreme Court by the narrowest of majorities upheld the constitutionality of a loyalty oath that he would have from a 1958 opinion of his: pressions of belief. The dissenters quoted abhorred, as he did all such forced ex-"Loyalty," Black said, "must arise

government." spontaneously from the hearts of people who love their country and respect their

## Those intangibles

ment and its public. If they seem frayed now, it is not because the men who hold stuffed men. depth or commitment: hollow men, tionship between a democratic governrespect that really matter in the relatorial. It is because they are men without power are consciously evil or conspira-It is those intangibles of love and

now at the arid years of Harding and ly to look back at this time as we do so much more destructive and danger in the world of 1972 the hollow men are Coolidge. If we can. The trouble is that Not so many years ahead, we are like-



The late Justice Black Depth and commitment

And he denounced the Soviet Union for lack of "restraint"in aiding North Vietnam South Vietnam. aid that amounts to perhaps one-seventh of what the United Strtes' is to