

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 21, 1941

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Attorney General Jackson today administered the oath of office to Wendell Berge, recently appointed Assistant Attorney General in Charge of the Criminal Division, at a ceremony in the Attorney General's office at the Department of Justice.

Mr. Berge was born in 1903 at Lincoln, Nebraska. His father, George W. Berge, was a lawyer and was at one time the Democratic nominee for Governor of Nebraska.

Mr. Berge attended the public schools in Lincoln, Nebraska, and graduated from high school in 1921. He then attended the University of Nebraska, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1925. He entered the law school of the University of Nebraska, but in 1926 transferred to the University of Michigan Law School where he graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1927. He was awarded a fellowship for post graduate work in Michigan Law School and was a resident graduate student during the school year 1927-1928. He was also a member of the staff of the Michigan Law Review. After leaving Michigan he completed his thesis and in 1930 was awarded a Doctor's degree. Mr. Berge commenced law practice in 1928 in New York City on the legal staff of Root, Clark, Buckner & Ballantine. He remained with this law firm for two years. In 1930 he went to Washington as a member of the staff of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. He has been a member of this staff ever since.

In 1935 Mr. Berge became chief of the Appellate Section of the Antitrust Division and as such was responsible for all briefs filed by the Antitrust Division in Appellate courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States. He also made assignments of cases for argument in appellate courts and argued a great many of these cases himself. In the spring of 1937 he became chief of the Trial Section of the Antitrust Division, but a few months later Assistant Attorney General Robert H. Jackson designated Mr. Berge as first assistant, with active supervision over the whole division. In July 1938 Mr. Berge was also designated the Department of Justice alternate for Mr. Arnold on the Temporary National Economic Committee, which is investigating monopolies.

During the last two years Mr. Berge has had major responsibility with respect to all of the antitrust activities of the Antitrust Division. Prior to that time, during the period in which he was chief of the Appellate Section, a great deal of his time was spent in connection with cases handled by the Department of Justice involving the constitutionality of New Deal legislation. He also tried and argued a number of cases involving orders of the Secretary of Agriculture under the Packers and Stockyards Act, the Grain Futures Act, the Commodity Exchange Act and other regulatory statutes. During the N.R.A. period he handled a number of cases involving the N.R.A. and the first National Labor Relations Board.