



Department of Justice

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ADDRESS

by

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Prepared for Delivery
before the
The Nineteenth Annual Conference
of the
Judicial Conference of the District of Columbia
at the
Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C.

No one can serve in the Department of Justice for long without gaining a new and broader perspective on the problems of administration of justice. In five years now from this vantage point I have watched this system at work. One cannot watch it work without realizing that we have in this country the most successful machinery man has ever devised for achieving justice. But our reverence for any institution need not blind us to the ways in which it can be made to serve our country better. It was Justice Holmes who said that it was because he loved the law that he sought always to make it a better instrument of justice -- and it is in that spirit that you are gathered here today.

There are certain common denominators which we have come to associate with the courts which consistently do the best work -- whether it be in a State system like that which the late Judge Arthur Vanderbilt of New Jersey made into a model for other states to follow, or whether it be a unit like the Fourth Circuit of the United States under the leadership of the late Judge Parker whom we all respected and loved so much. One of those common denominators is the effective implementation of the Judicial Conference. Courts work best where there is a close and harmonious working relationship and exchange of ideas between the Bench and the Bar. Any organization, whether governmental

or private, functions more efficiently when the component parts meet and confer regularly on common problems. Therefore, it is most encouraging to see a growing awareness that meetings such as this are very important to the effective administration of justice.

I am honored to have the privilege of being here as you are about to embark on what I am sure will be a very meaningful and successful judicial conference. By its very nature and composition this Circuit has probably a greater volume and greater variety of problems than any other Federal jurisdiction in the country. It is at once a great metropolitan center and a most important Federal Circuit. More than that, it is a great world Capitol, subject to the daily scrutiny of all the nations on earth through their diplomatic representatives here. Our system of justice, for those reasons, will be watched and noticed and in a sense measured by what is done here in Washington. Because of that fact the Judicial Officers of this Circuit and we members of the Bar carry an unusually heavy responsibility.

May I say this in closing. In the years ahead I believe our profession must give greater emphasis to improving the administration of justice in order to provide the public with better service. Our profession has but one product--justice for individuals. We must expedite the administration of justice so

the right result is obtained at the right time for the persons involved. Then, too, I believe that, consistent with basic convictions, differences should be reconciled in a way that would tend to make the law more certain and more understandable to the public.

There is a growing movement throughout the country to work harder for these objectives, and I am sure that this conference in part is a result of it.

Mr. Chief Justice, Chief Judge Edgerton, Conference Chairman Judge Prettyman, Chief Judge Laws, I heartily commend and congratulate you and your colleagues on this significant occasion.