

He's Been 'Muzzled' 20 Years, Says O'Dunne Leaving Bench

Anyone who thinks Judge Eugene O'Dunne has had his say whenever the occasion presented itself during his 20 years on the Supreme Bench, hasn't heard anything yet, the jurist said yesterday in just about so many words.

To quote him exactly, on the eve of his retirement from the bench:

"I've been fenced in for 20 years judicially, and somewhat muzzled in public expression; and emancipation in hot weather comes as a relief.

"Publicity Hound"

"I was always accused of being a publicity hound, and I probably plead guilty on every accusation. People ought to know the theory under which the judiciary functions—nothing sacrosanct about it, just a lot of fiction."

The judge, whose retirement was mandatory, having reached the age of 70, said he actually has had "a most glorious time loafing for twenty years."

"I've enjoyed every minute of it. I've taken the job none too seriously, or myself seriously."

Popular Among Lawyers

Judge O'Dunne, always popular among lawyers and considered by them one of the most colorful jurists ever to sit on the Supreme Bench, was swarmed with well-wishers in his Courthouse office and at a party last night at his home, 704 Cathedral street.

Asked about his plans for the future, Judge O'Dunne said:

"I have no definite plans formed. My taste would be to return to active trial work at the bar in cases of other lawyers."

Judge O'Dunne's last judicial acts were the hearing of a contested divorce case and the signing of routine court orders.

During his twenty years on the bench, Judge O'Dunne presided

McKeldin Sees No 'Gag' Danger

Dearborn (Mich.) "gag law" put to decisive test by Mayor. *Page 10*

"The Mayor of Baltimore would be in bad shape if he lived in Dearborn," Mayor McKeldin observed last night.

He was thinking about an ordinance passed by the Dearborn (Mich.) City Council, forbidding the Mayor there from "all contacts with the public, by direct mail or otherwise." Its sponsor, the president of the Council, said it was aimed at Dearborn's Mayor's "strictly political" fraternizing with his public.

"I don't think there's any danger of our Council passing anything like that in Baltimore," said Mr. McKeldin, who has his own ways of fraternizing with the voters—such as his latest memento: Book matches with his picture on them, and the words: "Taken from the Mayor's desk."

"That," said the Mayor, referring to the Dearborn legislation, "has me stopped.

"I've just come home from giving out diplomas at Forest Park High and attending Mayor's Night at Our Lady of Lourdes carnival, where I went around with three priests shaking hands with everybody at the booths and spent ten bucks. That would be prohibited, wouldn't it?"

over many important trials. He was presiding judge in the famous Whittemore murder trial and at the trials about nine years ago of persons accused of riot in connec-

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JUDGE O'DUNNE RETIRES AT 70

"I've Been Fenced In For 20
Years," He Declares

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tion with a large-scale taxicab strike.

Judge O'Dunne gained national recognition when he told a Criminal Court jury that it had made a "terrible mistake" in convicting a Boston lawyer and Saivation Army worker, Edward A. Kimball, of a charge of stealing \$15,000 from a man in a downtown hotel.

Through the judge's efforts, Kimball was able to win a motion for a new trial and later information disclosed that the deendant was not the thief, but the victim of mistaken identity.

Tough On Gambling

Judge O'Dunne's popular slogan in his treatment of bookmaking, lottery and gambling cases was "to take the profit out of the industry." He frequently imposed the maximum fine of \$1,000 in bookmaking cases and where there were a number of separate charges, he often imposed the maximum fine in each case.

While presiding in the Criminal Court in 1943, Judge O'Dunne collected more than \$150,000 in fines, by far the largest amount ever levied by one judge in a single year. He jokingly remarked yesterday that the fines imposed in that year were sufficient to pay his salary for fifteen years.

Judge O'Dunne will be honored at dinner next Monday in a downtown hotel.