

I am sure that all of you are fully aware of your obligations as police officers, and therefore to preach ethics to you would be presumptuous on my part. I believe, however, that it is well for all of us to keep reminding ourselves of the sacred precept that laws are to be enforced without favor or prejudice. Laws are made to be applied to all persons alike. Equality under the law is one of the oldest doctrines of our civilization — many times more ancient than our Republic. Respect for the law, the foundation stone of a stable society, crumbles if the law is applied one way to one individual and a different way to another.

The badge you wear as a policeman confers upon you great authority, signifying the power a free people governing themselves have vested in the State. But it is an authority not to be abused. It is an authority granted to your office and not to yourselves as individuals.

In the Police Department of Baltimore City, you have associated yourselves with an organization which has a long and glorious history.

I am sure that you have chosen police careers because you are on the side of the law, and I am confident that you will perform your duties with pride and bring honor to the department.

Let me say, finally, that I wish each of you success and happiness in your careers. I know all of you will do a job that will bring credit to yourselves, your department, your city and your State.

REMARKS, SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES — BALTIMORE

May 1, 1961

It is, I know, a coincidence, but I should like to think nevertheless that there is good omen in the fact that this new court for Baltimore City is being inaugurated on "Law Day USA." This May Day, 1961, is a memorable day in the history of Maryland jurisprudence.

This municipal court which we have established is the handiwork of many men who used their skills, their talents and their training to achieve a high purpose—the improvement of the judiciary of our State's largest city. I am confident that the court, now in the hands of this group of able, conscientious and dedicated judges, will fulfill the purpose for which it was established.