

faction. For then, as now, it was an office of high honor and great responsibility.

Afterward, for approximately 17 years, I was privileged to serve as the Comptroller of the Treasury of the State of Maryland, and all of you, of course, know the very close working relationship between that office and the clerks of courts of the State.

As you would expect, then, I feel quite at home here today. From experience, the great teacher, I know some of your problems, some of your purposes, some of your heavy responsibilities. It has been my pleasure through the years to have worked in very close association with many of you here. I have profited by the association. I have derived great enjoyment from your friendship. And so, before I continue further, let me express my sincere appreciation the officers and members of the Maryland Court Clerks Association for inviting me here today. I assure you that I am both pleased and honored to be your guest on the occasion of this annual convention of your Association.

I know that many drastic and far-reaching changes have occurred in the office of clerk of court since I served in that capacity more than two decades ago. For one thing, the expansion of our judiciary has multiplied the volume of your work, added greatly to your duties and rendered complex what only a few years ago was a relatively simple governmental operation.

I have been aware, as I know you have, of the strong and concerted movement, here in Maryland and elsewhere in the country, to improve our judicial administration. The proper administration of justice, to be sure, is of vital concern to all citizens, but you, as officers of the courts, have a peculiar interest in this cause. In a very real sense, clerks are officers of the courts and are in a position to contribute immeasurably to the proper functioning of the courts and a sound administration of justice.

In my judgement, you showed great wisdom when a few years ago you set up this Association of court clerks. By working together in this organization, you already have achieved much. I am sure you will accomplish much more in the future.

I have observed you as you maintained a sharp watch on legislation affecting the office of clerk of court. I know of the highly commendable, and at least partially successful, effort you have made, as a group, to achieve uniformity in the procedures and functions of the clerks offices as they operate in widely separated jurisdictions and