

pride themselves on their good manners and the decorum maintained in their courts. These, I like to think, predominate in our State. My observation has been that the conduct required of laymen in court is impressed on all persons present by the manner in which the proceeding is conducted. An orderly room makes work easier for all involved. Laymen become more attentive when the matters before the court are audible and understandable. The explanation of rights to individual defendants in open court informs the defendant of his standing before the court and sets the atmosphere for his trial. Spectators, or other defendants waiting trial, learn what is expected of them and what they can expect of the court. This also decreases the amount of time necessary for succeeding cases.

The not-so-good magistrate is a man who talks with his head down and does not look at the people who speak to him. He interrupts witnesses, and sometimes browbeats young attorneys. He makes up his mind, or appears to have made up his mind, at the beginning of a case. He loses his temper and shows contempt for his customers as well as for his place of work. I say, without fear of contradiction, that this judicial type does not exist in Maryland. No system, humanly operated, can completely circumvent the pitfalls of human fallibility. The best that can be hoped for is that there will be built into the system adequate protections against the destructive effects of these weaknesses. The problem is rendered doubly serious by the realization that judicial independence is so tremendously important that any administrative limitations must be scrutinized again and again to insure against abuse by the administrative power which might infringe upon such independence.

Reading the subject matters of your panel discussions, I am impressed with the broad emphasis placed on traffic violations and the trial of violators. You all are well aware of my interest in this field. On two occasions in the past I invited you to Annapolis to discuss motor vehicle and traffic violator problems. It is with some satisfaction that I recall my conversations with Chief Judge Brune which resulted in his calling a Conference of Trial Magistrates in October, 1962. It was at this meeting that you elected to launch an annual Conference. I congratulate you on carrying on the program through this, your second annual Conference. I hope that it is but the beginning of a healthy partnership looking for the better administration of justice and that you have laid the foundations for meaningful future conferences. They are a highly valuable means of conducting studies and exchanging ideas. Multiple common interests, problems and objectives indicate the desirability of a close working relationship.