

1 Although a four-tier system of state courts is
2 anticipated, a matter we partially support, you should
3 view this as a dual arrangement. That is, we will have
4 trial courts and appellate courts. Certainly this divi-
5 sion is extremely important for, one, the overwhelming
6 majority of citizens involved in either civil or criminal
7 trials are concerned only with trial courts. The judi-
8 cial process at this level is a very personal one and
9 the judicial officers of the courts must be acutely
10 conscious of the human element in justice not only from
11 the standpoint of plaintiff and defendant, but also
12 with respect to the jury when one is involved.

13 Judges of the court at the trial level are
14 very much public officers. They are involved daily with
15 the citizens and they should be responsible to the citi-
16 zens. This does not mean trial court judges should allow
17 opinions to affect their decisions, I mean public
18 opinions. An extended term of office as we propose in
19 the minority report would insure against this prospect
20 and judges elected thereunder will continue to apply the
21 law and not concern themselves with popularity polls.