

1 I understand your reference to the intermediate
2 court relieving some burden on the Court of Appeals, but
3 at some future date might it not be well to have this
4 flexibility in the Constitution so that with the chief
5 judge devoting a great deal of his time to administrative
6 duties, it might be better to be able to increase the
7 number of judges on the highest court?

8 DELEGATE MUDD: In our view, Delegate Singer,
9 the flexibility there is increasing the jurisdiction and
10 manpower of the Intermediate Appellate Court.

11 We have a four-tier system with two Appellate
12 Courts and two Trial Courts. By fixing the number of
13 judges of the highest court at seven, obviously that
14 does limit the amount of work that court can handle, but
15 by leaving the Intermediate Appellate Court flexible as to
16 jurisdiction and as to manpower, we feel that can be the
17 shock absorber, so to speak, to pick up the increase or,
18 as the circumstances may require, to increase its juris-
19 diction and thereby relieve the court of last resort.

20 Do I make it clear?

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bushong.