

1 renders written opinions which are published. These  
2 opinions are not only highly regarded by the courts, fre-  
3 quently cited, but they are relied on as evidence of admini-  
4 strative practice, aside from the worth of their legal  
5 reasoning.

6 A second thing is that he represents the legis-  
7 lature and performs a most useful function there. It is  
8 of great advantage to the legislature to have the advice  
9 of the man at the formative stage of legislation who must  
10 defend it in the courts, and his opinion is worthwhile, not  
11 only as to the constitutionality, but I know from experience  
12 that in many instances without getting into the policy field  
13 at all the attorney general or his aides are able to  
14 advise the legislature as to the deletion of a certain clause  
15 which might cause legal difficulties without the change  
16 in language, or that proposed legislation may cut across  
17 some existing statute or other part of the code.

18 That is of immense value, and if the legislature  
19 had its own counsel who would not have to defend it in court,  
20 it would present an entirely different picture.

21 The attorney general, the office in its present  
form was set up in 1916 by Attorney General Ritchie