

1 being the Court of Last Resort, sometimes referred to as
2 the Court of Errors and no appeals. This was a check,
3 you see, within the judicial system, these laymen were
4 going to see to it that the lawyers did justice even
5 though they might not know very much law.

6 We had a system whereby these lay judges could
7 practice law even while sitting on the top court. We had
8 one instance in my early days where a judge, lay judge,
9 wrote an opinion, he being a lawyer, and then appeared
10 before a common pleas judge down at the bottom of the
11 ladder and cited his own decision as being conclusive
12 evidence of the fact the case should be decided in favor
13 of his client. Needless to say that went out the
14 window.

15 Many of the courts that we had were discontinued,
16 including justice of the peace. I might add we had thousands
17 of justices of the peace and there were people who said,
18 if you meddle with the justice of the peace, you are
19 going to have a tremendous following against the
20 Constitution. Well, it didn't work out that way. It didn't
21 work out that way because the citizens of New Jersey back