MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

As 1978 passes into history I would like to take this opportunity to wish the best for all of you who are a part of Alabama's Judicial Branch of Government. 1978 has been a good year for progress in our judicial system. With the dedicated effort of all of you in the system I am confident that 1979 will allow us to further improve the delivery of justice in our great state. I sincerely appreciate your loyalty and support and again, wish for all of you and your families the blessings of a prosperous new year.
FORMER CBS NEWS PRESIDENT FEATURED ON JUDGES' MID-WINTER PROGRAM

FRED FRIENDLY TO CONDUCT
SOCRATIC DIALOGUE ON THE
COURTS, MEDIA AND SOCIETY

FRED W. FRIENDLY, former president of CBS News, will highlight an excellent program planned at the Circuit and District Judges' Mid-Winter Educational Conference, January 11-12 in Birmingham.

Mr. Friendly, who is now the Edward R. Murrow professor of journalism at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and the advisor on communications for the Ford Foundation, will lead a panel discussion entitled, "The Courts, the Media, and Society; A Socratic Dialogue."

The panel will consist of judges, media and attorneys representing prosecution, defense, and media law.

In his work at the Ford Foundation, Mr. Friendly initiated in 1974 a series of conferences on the media and the law. Co-sponsored by major news organizations, this innovative series of conferences brings together journalists, judges, lawyers and law enforcement officials in a special format designed to produce greater understanding of both the journalistic and judicial decision-making processes by underscoring conflicting constitutional concerns. The sessions are led by experienced law professors trained in the Socratic method who use complex, hypothetical case studies, drawn from real-life situations, which involve issues which create adversarial tension among the media, the bar and the bench. Over 50 of these one to three day conferences have been conducted to date.


He served as task force chairman of the first comprehensive National Survey of Public Attitudes Toward Courts and Justice, a project of the National Center for State Courts.

Mr. Friendly was associated with the Columbia Broadcasting System from 1951 to 1966, first as the producer, with Edward R. Murrow, of "See It Now." He also produced with Mr. Murrow the "Small World" series, which used intercontinental audio circuits to bring together prominent personalities from all parts of the world for conversation. In 1959 Mr. Friendly became executive producer of "CBS Reports." Under his aegis, this series earned forty major awards. Later during his tenure as president of CBS News, he was responsible for producing
FORMER CBS NEWS PRESIDENT
ON JUDGES’ MID-WINTER PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 3)

such programs as the "Town Meeting of the
World" broadcast, a global forum, and "Viet
Nam Perspective," a series of twenty spe-
cial broadcasts on the Viet Nam war and its
impact on the American people.

The conference begins with registration
between 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. on Thursday,
January 11. At 9:30 a.m., a joint assembly
of circuit and district judges will be held
in the Moot Courtroom at Robinson Hall on
the Samford University campus. Presidents
of the two associations, Circuit Judge
WALLACE GIBSON of Birmingham and District
Judge R. POWELL DUSKA of Florence, will
preside. Circuit Judge THOMAS E. HUEY
presiding judge of the 10th Judicial Cir-
cuit in Birmingham, and Dean DONALD E. COR-
LEY of the Cumberland School of Law will
welcome the judges to the meeting.

At 9:45 a.m., Chief Justice Torbert will
address the joint meeting of both associa-
tions and, at 10:50 a.m., the judges will
break into their respective groups for edu-
cational seminars.

The morning session for circuit judges
will include two topics -- INTERLOCUTORY
vs. FINAL ORDERS: Rule 54-B, Alabama Rules
of Civil Procedure, will be discussed by
Attorney T. J. CARNES of Albertville;
MITIGATION/AGGRAVATION IN DEATH PENALTY
CASES will be discussed by LARRY W. YACKLE,
associate professor of law of the University
of Alabama School of Law.

The morning session for district judges
will consist of a discussion on SEARCH AND
SEIZURE, conducted by Associate Justice of
the Alabama Supreme Court JAMES N. BLOOD-
WORTH.

At 2:00 p.m., both associations will
conduct business sessions and the educa-
tional seminars will continue at 3:50 p.m.

Circuit judges will hear a discussion
on WORKMEN’S COMPENSATION: CO-EMPLOYEE
SUITS conducted by Circuit Judge JAMES O.

HALEY of Birmingham. District judges will
hear a discussion on EVIDENCE conducted by
CHARLES W. GAMBLE, professor of law at the
Cumberland School of Law.

A banquet for both associations and
guests will be held at the Ramada Inn -
Medical Center at 7:30 p.m. on the evening
of January 11.

The Friday morning program with Mr.
Friendly will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will
be conducted for both circuit and district
judges in the Moot Courtroom in Robinson
Hall. The Mid-Winter Conference is spon-
sored by the Alabama Judicial College, an
affiliate of the Administrative Office of
Courts in cooperation with the University of
Alabama.

ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW
JUDGES SCHEDULED AT SAMFORD

The Alabama Judicial College has sched-
uled a comprehensive orientation and edu-
cational seminar for all new circuit and
district judges on January 10 at the Cumber-
land School of Law on Samford University.
The program immediately precedes the Mid-
Winter Educational Conference for Circuit
and District Judges.

The content of the program and the participants in the order in which they
will appear are:

9:00 a.m. - A discussion of the Canons
of Judicial Ethics by ROBERT P. BRADLEY,
judge, Court of Civil Appeals, and chairman
of the Judicial Inquiry Commission.

10:00 a.m. - Handling evidentiary prob-
lems, a panel consisting of Attorney CLAR-
ENCE M. SMALL, JR., of Birmingham; Attorney
RODERICK BEDOW, JR., of Birmingham; Chief
Deputy District Attorney RICHARD BENTLEY
of Montgomery.

11:30 a.m. - A discussion of sentencing
and probation determination, conducted by
Circuit Judge H. RANDALL THOMAS of Mont-
gomery and DON DRASHAEFF, area supervisor
for the Board of Pardons and Paroles,
Montgomery.
ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW JUDGES SCHEDULED AT SAMFORD

(Continued from Page 4)

2:00 p.m. - A discussion of juror and witness relations by BILLY D. HARBIN, clerk of the circuit court, Huntsville.

2:30 p.m. - A discussion of trial proceedings from the appellate viewpoint by RICHARD L. HOLMES, judge, Court of Civil Appeals.

3:15 p.m. - A panel discussion on practical advice for the trial judge conducted by Circuit Judge JACK C. RILEY of Cullman, Circuit Judge BEN MCALUCHLIN, JR., of Ozark, District Judge JOHN M. KARRH of Tuscaloosa, and Attorney ROBERT C. BLACK of Montgomery.

EVALUATION OF JUDICIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS IS NECESSARY

The Administrative Office of Courts and its affiliate, the Alabama Judicial College, are bound by agreements with funding agencies to conduct evaluations of all in-state and out-of-state judicial education and training programs attended by Alabama judicial and court-supportive personnel where travel expenses are reimbursed from state and federal grant funds.

Judicial and court-supportive personnel who attend in-state conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings and judicial education institutions will be requested to complete an evaluation upon completion of the program. Evaluation forms will be distributed during the meetings mentioned above.

Judicial and court-supportive personnel who attend out-of-state conferences, seminars, workshops, meetings and judicial education institutions will be requested to complete an evaluation upon completion of the program, and a follow-up evaluation three (3) months after program attendance to determine the impact of such training and education in their area of responsibility. Evaluation forms will be mailed to all concerned. Cooperation is vital to this program and the support of all who attend these functions is necessary.

LEAVE MAY BE TRANSFERRED BETWEEN STATE, JUDICIAL PERSONNEL SYSTEMS

Through mutual agreement between J. S. FRAZER, personnel director of the State of Alabama's Personnel Department, and ALLEN L. TAPLEY, the administrative director of courts, the following policies have been adopted with regard to leave. These policies apply when employees from the court system are appointed to positions in other state agencies, and vice versa:

(1) When an employee goes from one system to the other without a break in service, all the leave he or she has accumulated will be accepted by the receiving service. In such cases, there will be no lump sum payment for terminal annual leave and the employee will be considered in continuous service for purposes of earning additional annual leave.

(2) When an employee separates and there is a break in service, the annual leave will be paid in a lump sum, as is done at present.

(3) When an employee of either service is appointed to a position in the other service within four years after separation, sick leave previously accumulated may be restored. Such action has to be upon the recommendation of the appointing authority re-employing the former employee.

HEALTH COVERAGE NOW APPLIES TO MOST PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

Under the State Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan, all pre-existing medical conditions are covered for employees (and their dependents if family coverage is elected) upon completion of a waiting period. This waiting period is 60 days for all new subscribers, with coverage effective the first day of the month following the completion of the 60 days.
HEALTH COVERAGE NOW APPLIES
TO MOST PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

(Continued from Page 5)

Employees then become eligible not only for coverage of subsequent illnesses, but for "pre-existing" conditions as well. This means that heart disease and cancer, for example, are covered under the "pre-existing" conditions clause; usually Blue Cross requires a nine-month waiting period.

This is a unique feature of the State of Alabama Blue Cross/Blue Shield policy and is not a feature of all commercial Blue Cross policies.

A possible exception to this clause could occur when an employee is already hospitalized at the end of his waiting period. In that case, coverage would begin upon leaving the hospital. Coverage for pregnancy still requires a nine-month waiting period.

Any questions regarding health insurance or other fringe benefits should be directed to Ms. BARBARA ERICKSON, AOC personnel division.

Alabama 1975, which provides for county salary supplements for circuit clerks, applies to clerks who took office in January, 1977, as well as to clerks who served prior to that date, if the previous clerk was compensated on a salary basis before January 16, 1977. However, the Attorney General also determined that clerks who took office in January, 1977, cannot receive this salary supplement from the county if the former clerk was paid on a fee basis.

According to another recent opinion of the Attorney General, which was reported in its entirety in the November Court News, clerks and registers may not collect a 25¢ fee for reporting divorces to the State Board of Health.

OPINION OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

In a recently released opinion, Mr. Sentell determined that the traffic offense designated as "improper lights" on the uniform traffic ticket and complaint is not a moving violation as motion is not a necessary element of this offense. Mr. Sentell stated that "improper lights" is an equipment violation because the "essence of the offense of improper lights is a failure to have the vehicle equipped with proper lights."

AMENDMENT TO ALABAMA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

On December 6, 1978, the Supreme Court amended Rule 79(b), Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure, to read as follows:

"(b) Final Judgments or Appealable Orders; Minute Book. The clerk shall keep a minute entry or correct copy of every final judgment or appealable order, or order affecting title or lien upon real or personal property, or any other order which the court may direct be kept. This record may be maintained either as a separate minute book or on microfilm."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Circuit Court Judges</th>
<th>District Court Judges</th>
<th>Juvenile Court Judges</th>
<th>Municipal Court Judges</th>
<th>Clerks &amp; Registers</th>
<th>Clerk/Register Employees</th>
<th>Court Reporters</th>
<th>Judicial Secretaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>Criminal Code</td>
<td>Tuscaloosa</td>
<td>May 3-4</td>
<td>Regional Meeting</td>
<td>Administrative Responsibility</td>
<td>Transfer, and Criminal Code</td>
<td>Huntsville</td>
<td>May 12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>Summer Conference</td>
<td>Huntsville</td>
<td>June 18-19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>Specialty Courses</td>
<td>Tuscaloosa</td>
<td>September 13-14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alabama courts now rank among best in nation

By Thomas Hargrove
Post-Herald Reporter

Alabama's judicial system has undergone more change in the last five years than in the preceding 75 years. The state's courts are just now recovering from the shock of rapid change and modernization initiated by.createFrom

The 1973 Judicial Article to the Alabama Constitution buried the courts out of the Nineteenth Century. Alabama's court reforms received nationwide publicity and praise — in sharp contrast to frequent criticism leveled against this state for having one of the nation's worst state legislatures. "I sometimes say that this reorganization of the court system is the first reorganization of a branch of the state government since 1901," said State Supreme Court Chief Justice C.C. Torbert in an interview at his office in Montgomery. "And significant changes were brought about through the constitutional amendment and the implementation legislation. Since 1901, we had a fragmented system of delivery of court services. Not only that, but had different kinds of courts in different counties," Torbert said.

"These courts had different jurisdictions, they had full-time judges, they had part-time judges, they had judges who did not have law degrees, they had probate courts in certain counties that exercised court jurisdiction, and there were special local laws setting up a county court, a court of common pleas, a court of law equity, and inferior courts — you name it and we had it. And they were all different. There was no standardization." Prior to 1973, Alabama had no real court system in existence. In this state there was a conglomeration of conflicting jurisdictions and procedures. There were 400 separate courts in Alabama each with its own rules and record-keeping methods.

Because there was no central authority to coordinate the state's judicial efforts, disparities of court resources began to threaten Constitutional guarantees of a fair and speedy trial in some counties. In Jefferson County in 1972, about two-thirds of all criminal cases which went to trial took longer than six months from time of indictment to final sentencing. One case out of four took longer than one year to complete, according to a study made by the Institute for Court Management based in Denver, Colo. The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice in 1967 recommended that criminal cases be completed within four months from the time of original filing to final disposition. Jefferson County courts could not meet these standards.

When crowded courts became a critical problem, the chief justice ordered additional judges to be sent to Jefferson County to help reduce the backlog. But the state court system responded slowly to the problem because it was ill-organized and ill-equipped to meet the constantly changing needs of modern society.

Alabama's courts were also suffering from the effects of what Torbert called the "litigation explosion" in which the number of Alabamians entering civil suits had increased dramatically each year. Even today, that explosion shows no sign of lessening its roar because the total number of cases filed in state courts this year is expected to be more than seven percent higher than the number in 1977. An effort to solve these problems came with the adoption of the Judicial Article. It created a two-tiered court structure with district courts handling preliminary hearings and trials for small civil suits and misdemeanor offenses and the circuit courts hearing major civil and criminal trials.

The article also provided for the creation of the Administrative Office of Courts to examine and provide for the needs of the courts. That office also carefully monitors the caseloads of court systems so that there will be no repeat occurrences of backlogs like Jefferson County's during the early 1970s.

Alabama's court reforms drew nationwide publicity and legal commentators pointed to this state as a model for others to follow. Newspapers from New York City to Los Angeles printed stories about Alabama's judicial reforms and described the changes in glowing terms. This has made changes in Alabama's court system one of the finest in the nation, according to a study conducted earlier this year by the National Center of State Courts. The organization compared the structure of each state's judicial system with standards for the same, written by the American Bar Association.

"Most of the states — almost all of the states — have some sort of centralized organization and control," said Douglas Dodge, director of the study. "But it varies from state to state. In some of the states there's a real centralization in which the town where a minor offense is committed is the single greatest factor in determining what the punishment will be."

"You're right, the municipal courts are more autonomous than the district or circuit courts," said Torbert, who theoretically has direct administrative control over all of Alabama's courts, including municipal courts. "But we think of our role with them as being more of service and cooperation. If we say that those deficiencies (of service) have got to be resolved, and that we must have even-handed justice, then we get into standard setting. But then we are not making an election to this because you have got to leave something to the discretion of the presiding judge."

Torbert said he hopes that the new Alabama Judicial College in Tuscaloosa will work to end sentencing variations. The college, which began classes in August, is designed to educate judges as well as court personnel about new techniques in court management. Torbert, in his State of the Judiciary Speech in July, called for increased efforts to solve long term problems like inefficient use of juries, continued attention to juvenile cases and a campaign to "ensure that citizens continue to have speedy access to the courts" and initiating a program to provide constitutionally required legal services for indigent criminal defendants.

"It has sometimes been a rocky road, but we have the means, the opportunity and the obligation to render and to deliver justice," said Torbert in his July speech. "This means to everybody in a manner second to no other state in the union," Torbert said in his July speech.
Judicial system future bright

ALABAMA’S Unified Judicial System, created by voter approval of the Judicial Article in 1973, and implemented by legislative acts in 1975, has been buffeted and battered by political critics and legislative sniping. This came as the model court system was getting its walking shoes. Much of the criticism was unfounded, motivated by dog-in-the-manger thinking.

Now the returns are in for the first full year of operations. It is doing its job efficiently. More importantly it is providing a higher quality of justice in Alabama. Dockets are being cleared in a business-like manner at a saving in costs to government and jurors. Local governments are being spared a tremendous expense now being met by the state.

Earlier this year there was much flack about the cost of the system and there was a rhubarb in the State Legislature, which nevertheless produced the additional revenue needed to get it on its feet. The difficulty was that hard figures on costs, borne mainly by counties and municipalities, were hard to come by since accounting systems were more often hit or miss.

The budget for the first year ended Sept. 30 was just over $23 million. The current budget is $26.7 million, including about $1.6 million in court salary increases enacted by the Legislature. The best estimate of costs prior to the system was $20 million, a figure that would be greatly increased by the inflation factor of the last five or six years.

Through an expense accounting system, which provides ready computer information on costs of personnel, supplies, equipment and other things, the Administrative Office of Courts can keep a close watch. Computers help maintain cost control and provide data useful in preventing clogged court dockets.

In the last fiscal year the Unified Court System, consisting of Supreme and Appeals Courts, the various circuit, district and municipal courts (those which have elected to go into the system, and the Cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport have not), generated $17.3 million. Of this, $11.8 million went back into the general fund, $2.3 million to county governments, and the remainder for payment for indigent defense, county law libraries, and other services and functions.

The system was never designed to pay for itself, a faulty argument of critics now refuted. This would have meant cash register justice.

Additionally, the system provides for judicial education so that citizens will be assured of knowledgeable court officials. The work of judges is reviewed to weed out the unfit and ensure ethical conduct. It has assisted counties in refilling jury boxes as required by a new act of the Legislature.

Much of the success of the Unified Court System may be attributed to Chief Justice Clement Clay (Bo) Torbert Jr., who has steered its establishment since taking office Jan. 17, 1977. Torbert, charged with administering the unified courts with “proper dispatch,” is genial and open, knows how to work with people, and is dedicated to delivering quality justice efficiently and effectively.

It is too little understood and appreciated the saving the Unified Court System has meant to counties and municipalities. Where the state formerly bore the expense only of the appellate courts, and a share of circuit judges’ salaries, it now picks up the tab for all personnel, juror, supply and equipment costs that used to come out of local budgets. City and county officials sweating over the revenue-cost squeeze are relieved of a heavy burden in the nick of time. Now all they have to provide are space and utilities, and the counties retain a portion of court-produced revenue.

Of course there is continuing dispute over judges’ retirement and the higher age limit for juvenile offenders, but further legislative action will take care of some of the criticism arising from juvenile cases.

The bottom line is that the system is a long overdue reform of archaic procedures, is working and holds promise of even more effectiveness toward the basic goal of quality justice.
BENCH NOTES PUBLICATION
TO BE TIMELY AND IMPROVED

During the past two years, the publication of Bench Notes, a synopsis of state appellate court opinions, has often been delayed by other pressing staff matters. However, a new procedure has been instituted for the preparation of this important publication. Beginning in January, Bench Notes will be regularly published at the beginning of each month. Delivery will be timely and the overall quality of the notes themselves will improve due to increased attention and care in analysis and preparation.

JUROR PROJECT PART-TIME
PERSONNEL MUST BE TERMINATED

Act No. 14, Acts of Alabama, 2nd Special Session 1978, extended to December 31, 1978, the date by which all jury commissions are to have complied with the provisions of the "Juror Qualification Act," Act No. 594, Acts of Alabama, Regular Session 1978. Accordingly, those personnel employed for part-time clerical assistance to the county jury commissions must terminate their employment effective 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 29, 1978. All expense claims for their salaries should be submitted to the Administrative Office of Courts no later than Friday, January 5, 1979.

It is possible that some counties may not have completed all the necessary actions to comply with this act by December 31, 1978. In the event further part-time clerical assistance is absolutely necessary, a new request with justification must be submitted to the Administrative Director of Courts for approval prior to any such individual being employed after that date.

PROPOSALS FOR GRANTS
SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO JPC

The AOC will soon be requesting proposals for projects to be incorporated into the 1980 Criminal Justice Annual Action Plan - Judiciary Section for funding October 1, 1979. These proposals will be made in January and February of 1979. Submission of proposals will be similar to last year but further details will be distributed in January by memorandum from the AOC. The proposals will be reviewed by the Judicial Planning Committee and submitted to the Alabama Law Enforcement Planning Agency in April.

This federal assistance available through ALEPA can be utilized to meet a variety of needs for which funding would not be available under limited state appropriations.

MANUALS FOR STATE JUDICIAL SYSTEM
NEARING COMPLETION

Manuals for judicial and court support personnel are progressing and will be completed during 1979.

The partially completed Juvenile Court Judges Bench Manual will be distributed during the judges' Mid-Winter Conference in January. The manual will consist of procedural outlines in juvenile proceedings which will be followed by a narrative of each proceeding. The narrative section will be added to the manual at a later time. The final draft of the Court Reporters Manual will be completed by February. A target date of April is set for distribution of the completed manual. The Clerks and Registers Manual is still being drafted but the target date for distribution is June.

The final draft of the Circuit Judges Bench Manual has been submitted for composition and printing and will be distributed in March. The Standardized Court Forms Manual will be completed and distributed by spring. The Administrative Directives Manual will be distributed to circuit and district court judges at their Mid-Winter Conference in January and to the clerks and registers at their Mid-Winter Conference in February.
GOVERNOR APPOINTS WAYNE JOHNSON CIRCUIT JUDGE IN RUSSELL; SAM MONK AS DISTRICT JUDGE IN CALHOUN/CLEBURNE; INGE JOHNSON TAKES OFFICE IN JANUARY

Governor George Wallace has appointed Phenix City attorney WAYNE JOHNSON as circuit judge in the 26th Judicial Circuit (Russell County), filling the unexpired term of Circuit Judge James Caldwell who recently retired. At 28, Judge Johnson is the youngest circuit judge currently on the state bench.

In another recent appointment the governor named attorney SAM MONK as district judge for the district court of Calhoun and Cleburne Counties, filling a vacancy in that position.

INGE JOHNSON, elected as circuit judge in the 31st Judicial Circuit, (Colbert County) in the recent primary and general elections, has decided not to accept appointment to the circuit bench a month-and-a-half early. Ms. Johnson, the first woman in the history of the state elected as circuit judge, could have filled the remainder of the term of James Smith, III, who recently resigned. However, in a letter to Gov. Wallace, she said that accepting the appointment to fill the remainder of Judge Smith’s term might, under Subsection 6.14 of Amendment No. 328 to the Constitution, jeopardize her serving the full six-year term to which she was elected. This section of the Constitution, according to Ms. Johnson, could possibly be interpreted, if judicially tested, to mean that she would be required to seek election again in 1980. Section 6.14 provides for the filling of judicial vacancies. Ms. Johnson said that because this section of the Constitution is somewhat unclear on this point she has decided not to accept the appointment and wait until January before taking office as circuit judge.
As Christmas time draws near,
we think of friends most dear,
Of happenings and funny things
that brightened this past year.

We find the time appropriate,
so listed here below
Those gifts and quips and compliments
we now wish to bestow.

For those not listed here,
it was no oversight.
Only through the censor's pen
could we not clear
Those thoughts we wished to send.

'Tis through this jest
we send our best
wishes
for
a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Circuit Judge Joseph Phelps, Montgomery:
A picture of Reddi KIlowatt autographed
"With love from your friends at Alabama
Power Company."

Polly Conradi, Circuit Clerk, Birmingham:
An automatic napkin folder so that the next
time the State Democratic Party has a dinner
in Birmingham, her employees will not have
to work overtime.

District Judge Jerry Vanderhoef, Tuscumbia:
A pair of gray flannel tennis shoes with
matching tie to complete his winter wardrobe.

Circuit Judge Kenneth Ingram, Ashland:
Chairmanship of the new committee to revise
the forms revised by his former committee
which revised the forms revised by ....

Thelma Braswell, Associate Dean, Judicial
College: An invitation from Dr. Paul
Hubbert to submit a budget request for
funding the Judicial College under the
Special Education Trust Fund.

Glenn Murphy, Circuit Clerk, Lauderdale
County: A firepole so that he can get from
the 5th floor clerk's office to the 4th
floor clerk's office to the 2nd floor clerk's
office without waiting on the elevator.

Circuit Judge George H. "Spud" Wright,
Opelika: While driving on state business,
insurance coverage for his new Pinto with
Firestone 500 tires.

Margie McLeod, Register, Lowndes County:
A courthouse office, or how about a new
courthouse so that she can have an office.

To the Judges in Jefferson County: Six
columns on page one of The Birmingham Post
Herald in which they can rank and evaluate
the quality of all attorneys practicing in
the circuit and district courts of Jefferson
County and all newspaper editors and reporters
at The Birmingham Post Herald.

David Nix, Circuit Clerk, Barbour County:
His own personalized set of property
inventory forms.

Fred Posey, Circuit Clerk, Autauga County:
A "I love the AOC" tee shirt.
GIFTS - Continued from Page 10

Morris Moatts, Circuit Clerk, Chilton County: To our only Republican clerk, a pink elephant from Anna Fay Shaw's herd to add to his existing elephant collection.

Annette Dodd, Professor of Law, Cumberland School of Law: A personalized copy of a juvenile rap sheet.

Circuit Judge James Strickland, 13th Judicial Circuit, and Cleo Teague, Circuit Clerk, Morgan County: Kudos for lowering the juvenile age to 11-1/2.

Sarah Blackwell, Circuit Clerk, Colbert County: The thanks of the AOC staff for the excellent meals she provided and a microwave oven for her office from David Ashworth.

Billy Harbin, Circuit Clerk, Madison County: With all his committee assignments, a beeper so his office staff can locate him.

Charlie "Bill" Wann, Circuit Clerk, Jackson County: As an outstanding clown for the Shriners, an honorary membership to the Administrative Office of Courts.

Jerry "Pete" Trammell, Circuit Clerk, Cherokee County: Having no place to sit in his own office, we give a desk and chair especially designed for suspension from the ceiling... accompanying this gift is a step ladder so that Pete can reach his chair.

Sam Grice, Circuit Clerk, Talladega County: We give a new Winnebago to be used as the hospitality center for all court personnel attending the Talladega races.

Barbara Pippin, Register, Calhoun County: For having arranged to have a flat tire directly in front of the AOC offices, we give Barbara a new set of tires for her van.

Circuit Judge Perry Hooper, Montgomery: A used Jerry Ford bumper sticker.

District Judge John Karrh, Tuscaloosa: The Congeniality Award for the usage of proper language in concluding small claims cases - "Thank ya'll, come back and see us."

Circuit Judge Jack Riley, Cullman: A really good case to transfer to Decatur.

Circuit Judge Ed. Tease, Florence: A fire extinguisher so the next time his car catches fire in his garage, he will be ready for it.

Circuit Judge Joseph M. Hocklander, Mobile: For submitting the most personnel actions on the fewest employees, a personalized gift box version of the old shell game so he can move his employees anywhere he wants to.

District Judge Craig Miller, Montgomery: Ten free disco dancing lessons.

District Judge R. Powell Duska, Florence: Breakaway 'no smoking' signs so the next time he is hit on the head by a defendant, it won't hurt as much.

District Judge Wadell Zanaty, Birmingham: A day on the district court bench.

Neal Clingan, Court Reporter, Selma: A special invitation to attend Annie Laurie Gunter's Indian Turquoise Jewelry show.

Rosemary Houk and Erwin Scott, AOC State Roving Court Reporters: A special invitation to attend the Alabama Travel Council's Fall Tour of Alabama.

Mobile Circuit Judges Joseph Hocklander, Ferrill McRae, Elwood Hogan and Braxton Kittrell: An all expense paid trip to the International Academy of Trial Judges in Madrid and Costa del Sol, Spain, paid by The Mobile Press -- provided the expenses do not exceed $6,784.

Ray Bozeman, Circuit Clerk, Covington County: A tie clip to match his watch.

District Judge Richard Avery, Perry County: From Lynn Ward of the AOC fiscal division, a $100 gift certificate to be used only for valet services, haircuts, shoeshines and saunas on his next trip to Reno in 2001.

Circuit Judge Robert M. Parker, Anniston: One case of Copenhagen.

To the Supreme Court of Alabama: One month's loan of the AOC's men's room cloth towel dispenser.
Circuit Judge Joseph A. Colquitt, Tuscaloosa, and Doris Turner, Circuit Clerk, Tuscaloosa County: Ten boxes of their own personalized red tape so they won't have to depend on the AOC supply.

Judge Richard L. Holmes, Court of Civil Appeals: A personalized check writing machine so he can prepare his own travel expense reimbursement voucher.

Richard F. "Hoss" Dobbins, Circuit Clerk, Calhoun County: A saddle.

Waymon W. Elam, Circuit Clerk, Winston County: A copying machine that works.

Leo Howard, Circuit Clerk, Choctaw County: A proper and sufficient court order from Judge Hardie Kimbrough, 1st Judicial Circuit, to the effect that, in the future, Mr. Howard will not feel guilty when "forced" to go deer hunting.

Judges, Clerks, Registers and Employees of the 29th Judicial Circuit: A "typical" Alabama County Courthouse.

Judges, Clerks, Registers and Court Employees in the "Typical" Alabama Courthouse: Parcels of the Talladega County Judicial Building.

Sheri Holmes, Judicial Secretary, 15th Judicial Circuit: A merit raise so she can afford to drive her new Cadillac.

Faye Edmonson, Judicial Secretary, 5th Judicial Circuit: A watch so she can be on time to at least one circuit judges' secretaries' meeting.

To our many Judge, Justice and Lawyer Friends: 84 additional federal judgeships for Alabama.

To former Chief Justice, Senator-elect Howell Heflin: An office in Virginia so he will not have to become part of the "Washington crowd."

Chief Justice C. C. Torbert: An editor at The Montgomery Advertiser/Alabama Journal who would not position his photograph crowning the Auburn homecoming queen immediately above a headline reading "96-Year-Old Grad Returns to Auburn."

Allen L. Tapley, Administrative Director of Courts: An all-season Santa Claus suit.

Circuit Judge Bill Sullivan, Talladega: This entire charade is dedicated to him in response to his Birmingham speech.

C. C. TORBERT, JR.
Alabama Chief Justice
ALLEN L. TAPLEY
Administrative Director of Courts
WALLACE GIBSON, President
Association of Circuit Judges
R. POWELL DUSKA, President
Association of District Judges
EMMETT N. RODEN, President
Association of Municipal Judges
JOHN W. DAVIS, III, President
Association of Juvenile Court Judges
DEVON KIKER, President
Association of Clerks and Registers
DALE TYLER, President
Shorthand Reporters Association
ANNA FAY SHAW, President
Circuit Judges' Secretaries Association
MARGIE WETZEL, President
District Judges' Secretaries Association