

Judicial Administration in Maryland - Foreword

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JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION IN MARYLAND†

FOREWORD

By FREDERICK W. BRUNE*

This foreword to the article by Professor Robert G. Dixon, Jr., entitled "Judicial Administration in Maryland—The Administrative Office of the Courts" is written upon the invitation of THE MARYLAND LAW REVIEW. The broad scope of the article makes any detailed introductory remarks impossible.

To those of us who are daily engaged (to the best of our abilities) in the tasks of the administration of justice in Maryland, a study such as that of Professor Dixon is at least a partial answer to the wish expressed in the oft-quoted lines of Robert Burns about the gift "to see ourselves as others see us", and it may help us to realize the hope expressed in the next two (but rarely quoted) lines:

"It wad frae monie a blunder free us,
An' foolish notion."

Professor Dixon brings to this study the detached point of view of a professor of political science and the direct interest in the law and the administration of justice, which is manifested by his having added the degree of Bachelor of Laws to his Ph.D. in Political Science. A reading of his article will reveal the breadth and the thoroughness of the research which he has put into its preparation. It will prove a valuable storehouse of information for other

† [*Editor's Note:* Recognizing the importance of a study of judicial administration in Maryland, and the significance of the recently created Administrative Office of the Courts, the REVIEW requested Chief Judge Frederick W. Brune, of the Court of Appeals of Maryland and Chief Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt, of the Supreme Court of New Jersey to read Professor Dixon's article (herein, p. 95), and to favor our readers with brief comments. The REVIEW is grateful to Chief Judge Brune for his "Foreword", and to Chief Justice Vanderbilt for his "Comments", which will follow the concluding part of the article in the next number of the REVIEW.]

* Chief Judge, Court of Appeals of Maryland.

scholars who may wish in later years to pursue the lines of inquiry and study which he has developed.

The Administrative Office of the Courts of Maryland has made data in its possession available to Professor Dixon for his study and use; and both Professor Invernizzi, the Director of the Administrative Office, and I are gratified that Professor Dixon has undertaken such a scholarly work on a subject in which we are so deeply interested. It is only fair to say that the ideas expressed in Professor Dixon's article (with many of which Professor Invernizzi and I are in agreement) are his own. It is not, and it of course does not purport to be, either an official or an unofficial publication or statement of either Professor Invernizzi's or my views.

Several rather general comments may be in order. The requirement of brevity prevents their amplification. The first is to emphasize what Professor Dixon recognizes — that his study has been undertaken so soon after the establishment of the Administrative Office that the statistics thus far compiled by it cover so short a period of time as to give only an imperfect and perhaps somewhat distorted picture, because the law of averages has not had time to equalize various factors affecting the work of the courts. The second is that it is probably difficult for one who has a predilection for the appointment, rather than the election of the clerks, and who is not closely connected with the operation of the courts and the offices of the clerks of court, to realize the strength and earnestness of the desire prevailing generally among the clerks, their deputies and assistants to do a workmanlike job. The third is that, regardless of possible overlapping, rather than separation, of powers, the practical operation of the Comptroller's budgetary controls appears to be satisfactory and will probably be helpful in the development of standard job and salary classifications in the clerks' offices, which now seem probable.

It is my hope that Professor Dixon's article will help to bring to the attention of the profession in Maryland the importance of the work of the Administrative Office and that it will stimulate interest in the work of that Office.