

The library does not have the speech of Chief Justice Wooding at the opening of the 1962-1963 Law Term . We have provided a newspaper report of the occasion. [Trinidad Guardian. October 5, 1962, p.25]

CJ Tells Lawyers Be Visible Examples

The new Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Wooding, intends after discussion with members of the legal profession to seek to have the Government implement several recommendations of the Napier Committee which have not yet been put into effect.

Addressing members of the Bar at yesterday's formal, ceremonial re-opening of the Supreme Court of Judicature, the Chief Justice said he was disposed to think that many of the unimplemented recommendations would help the profession in achieving the results they were all striving to achieve.

The court opening for the 1962-63 term was marked with traditional pomp and ceremony, featuring this year, the parade of a guard of honour of the 1st Battalion of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment and the Regimental Band, and an inspection of the guard of honour by the Chief Justice on the western compound of the Red House.

Following the inspection, the full turn-out of members of the Inner Bar and the Utter Bar thronged the Port-of-Spain Hall of Justice to be addressed by the recently appointed Chief Justice.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT

He said he was particularly happy to welcome members of the legal profession as they had just had the opportunity of attending services in the two Cathedrals of Port-of-Spain. It was, in his view, right and proper and fitting that they should begin their labours by rendering thanks to Almighty God for the favours which they had received from him in the past and seeking his guidance and assistance for the future.

It was only by His guidance, protection and wisdom that they would be able to perform the duties that were assigned to them aright. He hoped that those who went to the services to seek that guidance would profit by it during the weeks and months that lay ahead.

He reminded lawyers that they faced considerable work in the term ahead. He was

grateful for the many expressions which he had received from members of the Bar indicating that he could rely on their co-operation to see that the lists of arrears were reduced as quickly as possible consistently with justice.

The Chief Justice said he had invited the assistance of members of the profession in the matter of fixtures so they might be able to accommodate as far as practicable the convenience of practitioners, while at the same time ensuring that the work proceeded with great dispatch.

VALUABLE TIME

He had some representations made to him and he had been promised others, he said. He would give all those representations sympathetic consideration, but there was one suggested which he could not possibly accept. That suggestion was that they adhere to the system whereby a judge sat in court and went through the lists, seeking to set cases according as practitioners represented how long each particular case would last.

He considered that a waste of valuable judicial time. Such time was too valuable to waste and he hoped that when he asked judges of the High Court to insist that — when a matter was put on the hearing list it went on unless some emergency arose, that he would not get brick bats, but praises.

SOCIAL FIELD

The question of the responsibilities of lawyers in a changing society was very close to his heart, said the Chief Justice. It was to form the subject of one of the committees at the International Commission of Jurists Congress in Rio de Janeiro later this year, which he hoped to attend.

He read from a statement on the subject which set out that a lawyer could not content himself only with the conduct

of his practice. "He cannot remain a stranger to important developments in the economic and social field if he is to fulfil his vocation as a lawyer.

"He must take an active part in the process of change."

It was not enough for the lawyer merely to formulate new ideas and new views.

"In his day-to-day professional life, he must be a visible example of the ideals of his profession — efficiency, personal integrity and courage".

The Chief Justice thanked those present for their attendance and the co-operation which they had promised and for the assistance on which he knew he could rely.

New Time Of Sitting

As from today, sittings of the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago will be from 9 a.m. to 1.15 p.m. The new time of sitting, according to the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Wooding who made the announcement yesterday, will become effective with one of the Courts which sits in Port-of-Spain today.

There is to be a short adjournment of the Courts around 11 a.m.

The Chief Justice, who at his first sitting two weeks ago, indicated that such a change in time of sittings of the Courts was likely to be made, had asked for public comment on the matter.

He stated yesterday that he was delighted to report that the Commissioner of Police had written saying that he approved of the proposal and that it would be convenient to the police. He had had no adverse comments whatever from any member of the public on the proposal, said the Chief Justice.

The former times of sittings of the Courts were 9.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. and from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.