

MR. BEER SPEAKS TO THE EDITOR

A Message Of Truth For The Intelligent Voter

TAKE TIME TO READ IT CAREFULLY

TO THE EDITOR:

Why Mr. Beer for the Bench? It's a fair question. It calls for an honest answer. Citizens have right to real reasons!

Quality of justice is determined by quality of the judge. No person is entitled to be judge because he wants the job. This applies to me. This applies to the judges on the bench, even if there for almost a generation.

WAR YEARS OF WORLD WAR II

My first thoughts of becoming a judge came during the long tense night hours of North Atlantic convoy duty. I was then a Navy gunnery officer. God willing, I decided some future day to help build that better America by becoming a good judge.

EACH GENERATION HAS A RIGHT TO ITS JUDGES

The present judges were on the bench years before World War II. They were there during the long war years. The same judges are still in office. It is time for a change. Time for a new point of view. Time for a fresher outlook, even from the bench.

But there are other strong reasons for a change!

THE DIVORCE DISEASE

Divorce is a national disgrace. So it is in Oakland County. For instance, during the past two weeks, the Oakland County Legal News factually reports as follows:

Week of Friday, March 13, 1953	
Marriage licenses issued	41
Divorce cases started	46
Week of Friday, March 20, 1953	
Marriage licenses issued	35
Divorce cases started	48

It might be said Oakland County is outdoing Reno. Michigan State Bar Journal, January 1953, on Page 5 states:

"It seems as if it were only yesterday that the newspapers were ranting about the divorce evil. Something had to be done! Lawyers and judges thundered forth on the benefits of the interlocutory decree. A bill was introduced, an act was passed. We've now had it for some three years, and divorces still are going through every three minutes on the pro-con docket."

THIS IS A SHOCKING SITUATION! THE MOUNTING RATE OF DIVORCE CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN IS A GREATER MENACE, TO OUR WAY OF LIFE, THAN ANY ATOMIC BOMB!

I HAVE HEARD JUDGES SAY, "YOU CANNOT LEGISLATE MORALS OF PEOPLE BY DENYING DIVORCES." WITH THIS I CANNOT AGREE. WE HAVE LEGISLATED MORALS EVER SINCE "THE TEN COMMANDMENTS".

Divorce is not easily possible in Michigan when the law is observed. Our Supreme Court has ruled "Divorce may only be granted when causes are sufficient to entirely subvert the marriage relationship." This is sound law. I shall follow it.

A CURB ON DIVORCE

It is not pleasant to be critical. But it is cowardly not to tell the truth! Too many divorces have been granted! Children from these divorces become your problem as a taxpayer. Higher than average, these children become involved in criminal offenses.

What can a judge do about divorce? He can do much! He should not grant divorce for insufficient reasons. People who marry and bring children into the world, must sometimes bear ordinary disappointments in life. We all do. There is rain and sunshine in everybody's life. Because unhappiness occurs from time to time does not mean necessarily a divorce should occur, and children subjected to suffering. Divorce involving children in Oakland County is a serious problem. Not only for the parties, their children, but for you, the taxpayer.

About 80% of these divorce cases are not contested. How can a judge know if there is another side to the story unless he makes the Defendant appear. Divorce cases involving children are so serious the judge should usually hear the testimony of the Defendant even if the case is not contested. Judges can insist upon this under Michigan law, (Court Rule No. 32); (Rosecrance vs Rosecrance, 127 Michigan 322). But they almost never do.

I will use this Court Rule. It will discourage lawyers from bringing certain divorce cases into court. It will encourage the ethical lawyer to continue rejecting unworthy divorce cases. It will still permit granting of divorces where both parties have testified, when it is right to do so, it will prevent many divorces. It will minimize the possibility of fraud and collusion in divorces.



WILLIAM JOHN BEER

Using this Court Rule will also stop foolish people from filing a divorce suit every time they have a slight quarrel. It will stop the clogging of our Courts with divorce cases which never should have been filed.

The taxpayer should not have the expense of providing courts and officers for these cases.

I shall do everything proper to curb divorce.

WHAT KIND OF EXPERIENCE

As a battle cry during this election it is claimed for judges on the bench "there is no substitute for experience". [This all depends upon the experience! Is this experience good or bad? You may decide at the polls, Spring Election Day, April 6, 1953.]

WISE VOTERS ARE NOT FOOLED BY BALLOT LABELS

The ballot label with the words "Circuit Judge" printed under the name of the men on the bench has for years generally discouraged others from opposing these judges. It is said the voters seeing this ballot label are psychologically persuaded to put down their "X" opposite the Circuit Judge in office.

I don't believe it. Voters are wise! In fact voters are wiser than most politicians think. If good men run for the bench, the voters will know. They will vote the right way on election day, ballot label or no ballot label, politicians or no politicians.

PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE A CHOICE OF JUDGES AT ELECTION

Lawyers should not discourage themselves from opposing the judges in office. They should not do this because of the ballot label, nor to defer to the judges on the bench. Lawyers owe a duty to the public to prevent a monopoly being created on the bench. The growth of such a condition could result in the voters having little say about electing competent judges.

OAKLAND COUNTY CITIZENS' LEAGUE REPORTS:

The Oakland County Citizens' League has given me, among others, top approval of "very well qualified" to be elected your Circuit Judge. Such a rating by this unbiased citizens' organization which investigates the candidates for various offices is most complimentary. I am proud of the privilege and trust which goes with this approval.

CONCERNING CRIMINALS

All criminals should be promptly brought to justice. The hardened or professional criminal should be severely dealt with, as the law demands, without probation.

Youthful or first offenders should not escape punishment for these reasons alone. Neither should probation always be the rule in these cases. Probation, rehabilitation, and true mercy should avail only when the facts completely justify such treatment.

To sum up, in all criminal cases I shall follow the law trying to make the punishment fit the crime.

I SHALL NEVER BE A PONTIUS PILATE, BUT ALWAYS A GOOD JUDGE TRULY LEARNING THE GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF AN ACCUSED.

A PLEA TO FELLOW CITIZENS!

For over 20 years I have tried to be a good lawyer. I've served my country in war. My fellow man has had my service in many public and private ways. I'm no Oliver Wendell Holmes or a Solomon in wisdom. But, I am certain of my capabilities to be a hard-working, square-thinking Circuit Judge of Oakland County.

Your vote as Circuit Judge on Spring Election Day, April 6, 1953, is respectfully requested.

William John Beer