

18-12-1986

Transcript of the speeches delivered at the Full Court Reference held on 18-12-1986 at 2 P.M. In Chief Justice's Court to bid farewell to Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.D. Ojha on the eve of his appointment as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Hon'ble Sri K.J. Shetty, Chief Justice

Mr. S.S. Bhatnagar, learned Advocate General, Mr. Anand Deo Giri, President of the High Court Bar Association and the Members of the Bar,

When a person is under the influence of his feelings, his real self always comes to the surface. The bars are down. The heat of emotions will burn all barriers away. You act and talk sincerely and spontaneously. You become natural. So we are to-day without exception.

When I landed at the Allahabad Railway Station in the early morning of 30th September, 1986, I was first greeted by a tall person with a lean and frail constitution. He affectionately welcomed me to Allahabad. He was none other than Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. D. Ojha, for whom we have now assembled to bid farewell on the eve of his appointment as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh.

As most of you may be knowing, Mr. Justice Ojha belongs to the neighbouring district of Pratapgarh. He was born on 19th January 1926 and was brought up in a religious atmosphere. He received his education at Allahabad. His legal career started in this Court, i.e, enrolment as an Advocate on December 20, 1951. He chose to work in the chambers of Sri G.P. Bhargava. I am glad to note that Sri Bhargava is pappily with us to-day and I understand that he is immensely pleased today to see his junior being elevated as the Chief Justice of the neighbouring State. The advocates are not born. They are made in the chambers of seniors. If seniors take interest and encourage juniors will come up and often rise above the seniors. Mr. Bhargava deserves our congratulations in shaping Mr. Ojha under his able and proper guidance.

Mr. Ojha made a mark in the profession. He specialised in Civil and Constitutional Laws. It did not take him long to fall in line with senior lawyers and he soon came to the front line in the

profession. I am told that Mr. Ojha upheld the highest traditions of the Bar. His professional life has been one of the utmost integrity and repute. He had inspired trust and confidence among the members of the Bar and the litigant public. He had endeared himself to every one with whom he came in contact. His merits at the Bar did not escape the attention of the authorities and he was called upon to shoulder the great responsibilities on the Bench of this Court. On 3rd September, 1971 he was appointed as an Additional Judge of this Court for a period of two years. On 12th December 1972 he was appointed as a permanent Judge of this Court. It seems the month of December is auspicious for Mr. Justice Ojha. He was enrolled as an Advocate in the month of December, he was appointed permanent Judge in the month of December and he has been appointed as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court also in the month of December.

I am extremely happy today because God has acceded to one of my silent prayers, the prayer that I have been making since I came to Allahabad. Ever since I met Mr. Ojha I found so much common in between us not only with the physical structure but also with the mental make up. We lived as members of the same family. He has been more than a brother to me. If I gained anything useful in this institution hitherto it is because of the assistance rendered and the guidance given by him. On the occasion of my oath taking ceremony as Chief Justice of this Court in this great hall, Mr. Justice Ojha had in his welcome address referred me as a God fearing person. But on my part I always found him a true Karam Yogi who believes in work without undue worry and strain. He remains unperturbed, and calm and remains calm even in troubled atmosphere. He is free from attachment and egoism. Very often he had told me when confronted with delicate and difficult questions, please don't worry. God has his own ways of doing things. He will solve our problems. It has become true on several occasions. He is not only God fearing but perhaps God may even have fear about him. There is no over statement to describe him as a very embodiment of culture and a grace personified. As I can see he has got grace generated by a high degree of piety of which he never makes a fan-fare. Apart from his deep knowledge and erudition, his gentle behaviour and general kindness are the marked characteristics which draw praise of one and all. He is courteous,

affectionate, soft spoken and unassuming. There are no two standards in his life, one in the Court and another in his private life. He is uniform throughout every where as to merit highest esteem from all concerned. He has been an architect of his own fortune unaided and with unclinchd devotion to God. He has risen to the present position. His life is thus a source of inspiration for all of us. Mr. Justice Ojha loved this institution so much that he never thought of going out at any time for pleasure trip. I am told that he did not avail himself of the leave travel concessions during the past 15 years of his service. I am glad, indeed very glad, that at the fag end of his service, the President of India has issued a movement order to him so that he should atleast go out of Allahabad to neighbouring state. He is now going as our ambassador with rich traditions of this Court and with the warmth of feelings of all of us but he will always remain in our mind and hearts.

I, on my behalf and on behalf of my brother Judges, wish Mr. Justice Ojha many years of fruitful life, health, happiness and higher distinction. We wish Mrs. Ojha also all the best in the life in the company of her illustrious husband in the years to come.

Good Bye.