

Judges Hear Critics of High Court

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Sept. 10 (UPI)—The U.S. Supreme Court was condemned and praised in a panel discussion yesterday while Chief Justice Earl Warren listened intently.

The occasion was the 28th annual Judicial Conference of the Third Judicial Circuit of the United States, covering New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Before a roomful of lawyers and judges, former New York Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy attacked the High Court for hampering the administration of criminal justice while "vicious beasts" were loose on the streets. He was referring to the Supreme Court ruling in 1961 that extended to state courts the Federal rule that illegally seized evidence is inadmissible in criminal trials.

"We are forced to fight by rules while the criminals are permitted to gouge and bite," he declared.

"It has been our experience that if suspects are told of their rights they will not confess," he added.

Yale Kamisar, law professor at the University of Michigan and a leading authority on criminal law, rose to launch a vigorous attack on Murphy's statements. At times his remarks elicited laughter from the crowd, including Chief Justice Warren and Associate Justice William J. Brennan Jr.

Kamisar called Murphy's position "simplistic, narrow-minded and politically expedient."

"Fighting crime is a difficult, frustrating business," said Kamisar. "When you can't handle it, the easiest and most politically attractive device is to blame it on the courts. It's a lot more popular than raising taxes to increase the police force."