

is not and is likely to be too busy unless you push him. AND if he is making a hash of your case you will have to run it yourself.

Go to courts to familiarise yourself with procedures and see how examination and cross examination is done.

Handcuff the Prosecutor

In a recent court case in New South Wales the proceedings took an unusual turn. Mr. Jimmy Murray was in the dock charged with maliciously setting fire to the tailor's shop at East Maitland jail. He pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Murray applied to have his handcuffs removed — the magistrate refused. Murray reminded the court he was defending himself and needed to take notes. The magistrate still refused — Murray then made the application that in the interests of a fair trial and in order that the prosecution would not be at an unfair advantage, if he couldn't have his handcuffs removed then the prosecutor should be handcuffed.

He went on "This is not a fair trial when I am handcuffed and the prosecutor is not." The magistrate blandly replied —

"I will do my best to see that you get a fair trial."

Murray, not to be deterred by the obstinacy of class justice tried to force the issue.

"I would ask where it provides for a prisoner to be handcuffed in court."

There was no reply to this. The magistrate ruled that the prosecutor not be allowed to avail himself of a pair of handcuffs. He also ruled that Murray not be given access to a model of Maitland jail being used by the prosecution, and that he not be given access to a table and writing materials.

So much for the myth that equal facilities are given to both sides. The next step will no doubt be to gag defendants at their own trials, a la Bobby Seale, and eventually to exclude them altogether.

