Others disagree

Patterson touts plea ban victory

BY JACKIE KLEIN

[illegible]

Scottdale 44th District Court Judge Clarence Boid disputes Patterson's claim that the number of defendants pleading guilty as charged has steadily risen while the number of felony cases tried has steadily [illegible]

IT'S MY understanding that no [illegible] actually increased on the board in Oakland County Circuit Court since 1971, Boid said.

When plea bargaining is permitted, suspects generally are expected to plead guilty to charges less serious than the original charge. But it is understood that such charges are dropped only in exchange for a guilty plea, or some similar [illegible]

One county official called Patterson a grandstander who blows statistics out of proportion to feather his own nest and far Patterson's political career.

Two local attorneys maintained Patterson's plea bargaining has reduced the number of courthouse trials in felony cases and, eventually, reduced jailer costs, with [illegible] and expensive trials.

PATTERSON SAID he claims to be convicted [illegible] as much as possible with so that criminals the best punishment. But he's not a [illegible] crime he's modeled his policies [illegible] in the courts and jails and [illegible]

The fact he said, is not [illegible] by more criminal cases tried. By 22 actual cases, [illegible] court judges in the county. Patterson's [illegible] are filled with charges with defendants [illegible] over [illegible]

Patterson is [illegible] that he would be [illegible] Prosecutor [illegible] in the [illegible] and [illegible] the change is not in [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] Prosecutor [illegible] Sandra [illegible]

We have [illegible] Boid said. We're [illegible] more [illegible] and [illegible] cases [illegible] of Patterson's [illegible] plea bargaining [illegible]

The local court does only forty cases of [illegible] and crime. We take complaints issue warrants, arraign suspects and conduct examinations. If there's probable cause to believe a serious crime has been committed and the suspect committed it, he's bound over to circuit court for trial.

DISTRICT COURT, Boid said, handles [illegible] felonies, [illegible] and traffic violations. But in more serious cases, there's a time and place for plea bargaining, he maintained.

The system demands it, he claimed. You can't always prove a specific crime and there's room for bargaining and flexibility. That was the point, the defendant and the prosecutor are best served. In cases involving [illegible] necessary expense and inconvenience to the defendant with impediments.

In certain cases, Boid said, charging down is suspected criminals is not feasible. The [illegible] the Easter [illegible] Pontiac [illegible] "[illegible]" [illegible] and [illegible]

Scottdale City Attorney Sam [illegible] Barbara [illegible] for plea bargaining in [illegible] cases [illegible] Boid said that [illegible] following a similar [illegible] make the difference between [illegible] and [illegible] Boid said [illegible] than [illegible] be [illegible]

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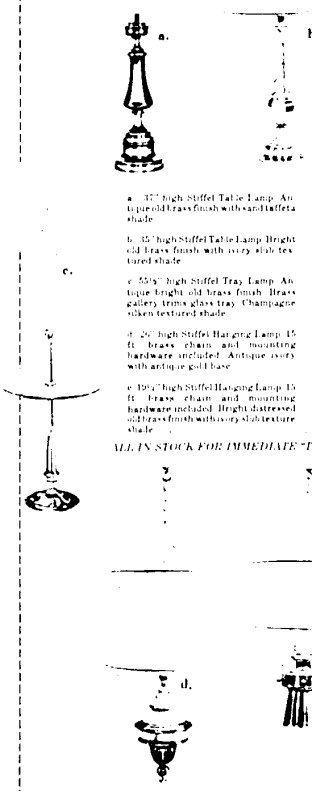

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