

RELATIVE FUNCTIONS OF BASKETBALL

COACHES AND OFFICIALS

John Brown, Jr.,
Member, National Basketball Rules Committee,
Executive Secretary, National Association of
Approved Basketball Officials

President Carlson and Members of the National Association of
Basketball Coaches:-

Although my being called upon at this time is a complete surprise to me, nevertheless I appreciate this courtesy and recognition. As a member of the National Rules Committee for twenty-five years, and Chairman or Executive Secretary of the National Basketball Officials' Association for nearly fifteen years, I am tremendously interested in whatever will advance this great game among the youth of this and other lands. I have been very favorably impressed with the quality of the work and studies reflected in the reports of the various sub-committees which have been presented at this opening session.

In response to the request of your President, perhaps it may be in order if I shared with you in a rather informal and impromptu manner, some points of view regarding the functions and relationships of the two classes of individuals which, to my mind, occupy the most strategic positions in determining the future of basketball for good or ill; namely, the coaches and the officials.

As I have listened to your proceedings, I have been impressed with the fact that the great majority of coaches attending this meeting are men who regard coaching as a vocation. To you it is a professional career to which you are giving your full time and from which you derive your chief source of income. On the other hand, officiating is an avocation to most officials. They follow some other vocation as a career from which they gain their livelihood; to them, officiating is a hobby by means of which they supplement their income. This difference in career, outlook and attitude, makes a vast difference in the functioning and relationships of coaches and officials.

Another major difference between coaches and officials lies in the fact that the average coach is engaged by and responsible to only one institution, whereas the official has relationship with many different institutions or organizations, in many instances without any primary responsibility in or to any of them.