

## SCENE NINE

SCENE: *Judge's chambers.*

**HALLORAN.** Henry, the publicity on the Kringle hearing has reached massive proportions. They're writing blazing headlines about it.

**JUDGE** (*gloomy*). Yeah. I've seen the papers too.

**HALLORAN.** So... What are you going to do? You have to think of your situation.

**JUDGE.** *And my duty to my office.*

**HALLORAN.** Today is Christmas Eve. If you send Santa Claus to the nut house on Christmas Eve, you're likely to be up for a protest demonstration...or assaulted...or even murdered!

**JUDGE** (*sighs*). I know. It's desperate... If that young Gayley can figure out the slightest "competent authority" reference that I can use for a sanity ruling, I will willingly and eagerly give him every possible break. I've been observing Mr. Kringle very carefully. He seems to be nothing worse than a very kindly old gentleman. But...unless something miraculous happens, I'll have no alternative but to accept the report of incompetency and have the old guy put away. (*He exits toward courtroom, followed by HALLORAN.*)

## SCENE TEN

SCENE: *Courtroom.*

*Crowd is waiting for hearing to resume. SUSAN and DORIS are among the spectators. KRIS and FRED are in their places.*