"THE SYLLABUS IS THE LAW" — ANOTHER WORD BY FOX, J.

In one of its most recent decisions1 our Supreme Court of Appeals makes a significant statement which deftly explodes the widespread notion that the syllabus has some sort of sacrosanct efficacy in West Virginia. Anent the syllabus in a former case,2 the court, per Fox, J., delivers a neat requiescat:

"We think the ruling of the court in that case, while not carried into the syllabus, is nevertheless law rather than dicta, if there be a distinction between the two."3

The distinction — "if there be a distinction" — between law and dicta is of course another story, though a closely related one.

2 Davis v. West Virginia Bridge Comm., 113 W. Va. 110, 166 S. E. 819 (1932).