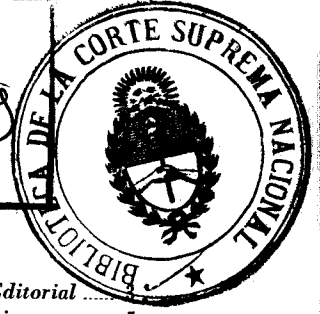


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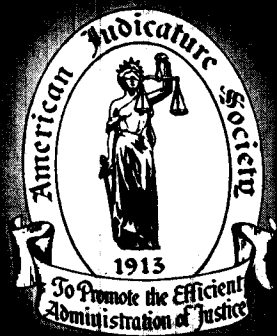
New Federal Judges Must Be the Best

DURING the next few months President John F. Kennedy will be appointing nearly a hundred lawyers to lifetime positions as federal judges. No other event in recent years can surpass this in its impact on the administration of justice in this country.

There have been presidents in the past who would have extracted the maximum political advantage from such an opportunity, regardless of its effect on the courts and their work. They would have used these appointments to provide a landing place for lame ducks who had been defeated in prior gubernatorial and senatorial elections; to reward those who had helped to win the election that had put their party in power; even to put a troublesome competitor out of circulation.

Nearly a year ago, before he was elected, President Kennedy in a letter to the president of the American Bar Association affirmed his personal adherence to the principle of a qualified and independent judiciary, and of judicial qualifications rather than political affiliations as the paramount consideration. As he signed the new judgeship bill he expressed similar sentiments more specifically and at some length. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Deputy Attorney General Byron R. White, on whom the burden of the selections for these appointments will chiefly fall, both have

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