

Supervisors Back Merit Plan to Appoint Judges

By KENNETH HAHN
County Supervisor

Our courts and system of justice safeguard our basic liberties.

That's why it's essential that politics be kept out of naming judges. The judiciary should not be used for political patronage.

At present California judges are appointed solely at the discretion of the governor.

The appointment is virtually for life. Few attorneys—except rare cases—will try to unseat a judge in an election. (If he doesn't win, he may have to appear before that judge to plead a case in the future.)

FOR EXAMPLE, only 10 of the 247 incumbent superior and municipal court judges in Los Angeles County are opposed in this June's election.

To eliminate politics from judicial appointments, Governor Reagan, the State Judicial Bar Association recently proposed a merit plan for selection. It is now before the State Legislature.

It would establish commissions to screen potential judicial candidates and submit nominees to the governor.

I commend this effort, but I don't think it is strong enough.

AS PROPOSED, the six-member commissions are dominated by attorneys appointed by the State Bar and judges. Each commission would be made up of two judges, two attorneys (appointed by the State Bar), and two citizens appointed by the Governor.

The courts belong to the

people. We must make sure behind-the-door Bar Association politics are not substituted for partisan politics.

On my motion as chairman of Courts, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has supported these amendments to the merit plan:

- Citizen membership should be increased from two to three, providing a total of seven commissioners.
- A section authorizing the Lieutenant Governor to appoint judges to vacancies if the Governor fails to do so within 30 days should provide that the Judicial Council make the appointment in the event the Lieutenant Governor does not within 30 days.
- Names of candidate submitted to the Governor by the commissions should be made public (as we do with nominees to the Grand Jury).
- A Governor should be prohibited from appointing judges during that part of his term which follows a gubernatorial election in which he

is not re-elected. (This will prevent "lame-duck" appointments.)

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College Plans Career Day

Carson High School students will be among those from six harbor area high schools invited to attend the Occupational Information Day Program to be held April 18 in Seahawk Center, Harbor Junior College. Students at the college may also attend.

Robert Betts, head counselor at Carson High, is a member of the planning committee for the event.

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Mrs. Wright's — Chock Full of Tasty Raisins: Low Price! 15-oz. loaf **29¢**

Large 'AA' Eggs
Ceram O' the Crop — Rushed From Nearby Egg Ranches. 1-doz. Cartons **39¢**

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Fresh Oysters Captain's Choice Tender and Tasty 10-oz. jar **79¢**

Raw Shrimp Medium Size Shrimp Tail and Tasty lb. **89¢**

Veal Parmagiana 4-oz. portions lb. **79¢**

Liver Sausage Packaged in Random Weights lb. **39¢**

Pork Sausage Farmer John or Luer's Pork Links 3-oz. pkg. **\$1**

Sliced Bacon

Savory Hickory Smoked
• Dubuque Miss Iowa lb. **55¢**

• Luer's Iowa Farms pkg. **55¢**

Sliced Bacon Your Choice 1-lb. pkg. **59¢**

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FANCY QUALITY Bananas

South American Golden Ripe. Tops for Snacks or to Slice Over Breakfast Cereal. lb. **10¢**

Fresh Carrots Packaged Fresh Daily! 3 lb. **29¢**

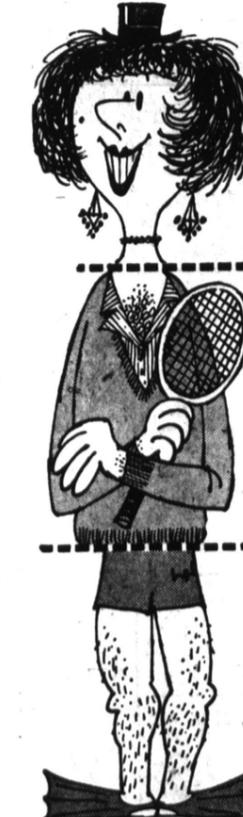
Grapefruit White Marsh—Seedless, Sweet and Juicy—Serve for Breakfast 8 -lb. bag **59¢**

Red Apples Oregon Extra Fancy Delicious 4 lbs. **\$1**

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