



NINTH JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

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By Fax: 694-5018

September 24, 1992

Milton Hoffman, Editorial Page Editor
Gannett Newspapers
1 Gannett Drive
White Plains, New York

RE: Your September 6, 1992 Editorial:
"O'Rourke Belongs on the Bench Now"
"...Don't Play Politics with Judges"

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

This letter is to thank both you and Mr. Beaupre for meeting with me yesterday to discuss the findings of Ninth Judicial Committee's six-month investigation of Mr. O'Rourke's judicial qualifications.

Much as I anticipated, I was not in a position to answer important questions raised by you and Mr. Beaupre--particularly as to the Surlak case, detailed at pp. 7-16 of our critique.

Since that case is particularly critical to your assessment of Mr. O'Rourke's legal background--as well as the pattern of falsification, distortion and omission of material facts which characterizes his presentation to the Senate Judiciary Committee--may I again suggest that you avail yourselves of the opportunity to speak directly with our Director, Doris Sassower, who personally reviewed the files in that case, as well as interviewed Mr. Surlak himself and conferred with his attorney, Anthony Burton, Esq.

Doris Sassower's legal expertise and background in judicial selection criteria are set forth in the Profile immediately following page 48 of the critique. She is quite willing to speak with you and Mr. Beaupre, either by phone or in person.

Mr. Milt Hoffman

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We look forward to working together with Gannett and making up for lost time. Ours is a common goal to bring about accountability of our elected officials--and judicial screening procedures which will safeguard the public.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER
Coordinator, Ninth Judicial Committee

cc: Lawrence Beaupre, Vice-President and Executive Editor
(fax: 694-5150)