

October 23, 1990

Hon. Lawrence E. Kahn
Supreme Court
Albany County Courthouse
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Justice Kahn:

The October 17th story in the Times-Union regarding your Honor's Decision in the 9th Judicial District's cross-endorsements case came to my attention at a time when, due to the exigencies of getting the appeal under way, I was unable to respond.

I do not know precisely what the reporter said to you to have prompted your Honor's reported sharp criticism of me, but evidently, my remarks were misinterpreted. Indeed, he omitted my flat denial when he specifically asked the question as to whether I was suggesting there had been any political influence.

Naturally, I was extremely disappointed by Your Honor's decision, which, as was stated at oral argument, was going to be appealed by whichever side was the aggrieved party. However, I do have the utmost respect for the fact that your Honor not only recognized the need for expedition, which was explicitly acknowledged in the decision, but also rendered same with fullest cooperation so that appellate review could be achieved promptly--and squarely on the issue of the legality of the cross-endorsements contract at issue. I have stressed that fact in a most complimentary and appreciative way in my appellate submissions, as well as to members of the press, and I mean that sincerely.

Regardless of the ultimate outcome, I agree with Your Honor's view that the case, including your Honor's decision, "no doubt will continue to fuel the debate concerning the manner in which candidates for judicial office are selected".

Most Respectfully,

DORIS L. SASSOWER

cc: John Caher, Times Union