

# Burger Asks Rise In Judicial Pay

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Saying that press freedoms and judicial independence go hand in hand, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger called on the press last night to support the federal judiciary in its quest of higher pay.

"A judicial system where salary increases lag 45 to 50 per cent behind the salary scales of other career government employees is in jeopardy" and needs help from the press, Burger told the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Burger said the press will act in its own best interest if it supports a strong and adequately paid judicial branch because "the vindication of every great right in a free society depends on the quality and independence of the bar and the judiciary."

"You will keep your independence only so long as there is an independent judiciary to give meaning to the words of the Constitution," said Burger in an address prepared for the ASNE's convention banquet at the Shoreham.

"By the same token," Burger added, "a free press is needed to assure that assaults on judicial independence are exposed and answered, for judges traditionally do not respond to attacks."

The chief justice said the federal courts of the nation's major metropolitan areas are in the most serious trouble, with rising caseloads and judges resigning because their salaries are not keeping pace with inflation.

"How long and how well

could you run your newspapers," he asked, "if in 1975 you were limited to replacing your best reporters and best editors at 1969 pay scales?"

Legislation introduced Thursday in Congress would give federal judges and Supreme Court justices an across-the-board 20 per cent raise. District Court judges now receive \$40,000, members of the circuit courts of appeals are paid \$42,500 and Supreme Court associate justices get \$60,000. Prospects for the raise have been rated low in a recession year and possibly lower for the election year 1976.

The chief justice gave the editors some legal advice on the need of the press to obey court orders even when they appear to violate the First Amendment. "It is fundamental to our system that court orders must be obeyed until and unless they are reversed on appeal."

Burger also chided the press for sensitivity to criticism. "Some journalists occasionally react to criticism of the media as though the First Amendment rights of the critics had become second class," he said.