

Full Senate Action On Halleck Urged

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Twenty-seven prominent lawyers, including past and present elected leaders of three major D.C. bar groups, have urged the Senate District Committee to allow the full Senate to vote on the controversial nomination of Judge Charles W. Halleck to a new term at Superior Court.

Halleck's name has been before the Committee since President Ford nominated him last October. The Committee's inaction, the lawyers said, creates a "very undesirable situation" and is "harmful to the administration of justice."

"We believe that the people of the District are

entitled to have the Congress vote up or down on (Halleck's) confirmation," the attorneys said.

Meanwhile, federal prosecutors—including the leader of opponents to Halleck's renomination—have continued to trade charges with the judge.

The latest exchange concerns Halleck's refusal to allow prosecutors to file documents "correcting" his renomination battle. The prosecutors have now asked the D.C. Court of Appeals to order Halleck to file the material, which the judge has called "scandalous, impertinent."

In their July 30 letter the
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A Vote by Full Senate On Halleck Is Proposed

HALLECK, From E1

"uncertainty" surrounding Halleck's future has had an "unfortunate effect" on other judge who must decide whether to seek reappointment.

The letter, drafted by E. Barrett Prettyman Jr., a past president of the D.C. Bar who is an attorney with the firm of Hogan and Hartson, was sent to Senate District Committee Chairman Thomas F. Eagleton (D-Mo.) and ranking minority member Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R-Md.).

Neither senator returned a reporter's phone calls yesterday to comment on the letter.

The list of signers includes four presidents each from the D.C. Bar and the separate D.C. Bar Association. It also includes two presidents of the smaller, mostly black Washington Bar Association.

Although the letter said the signers take no position on Halleck's renomination, in effect it asks the committee to approve the nomination "so that the Senate as a whole can express it-

self on the important question of whether Judge Halleck should continue."

Halleck is the first Superior Court judge to seek reappointment since the Home Rule Act empowered the D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure to rate the fitness of sitting judges desiring another term.

The panel last Sept. 19 found Halleck "qualified," not good enough to make his reappointment automatic but sufficient to send his name to the White House. On Oct. 20 Mr. Ford sent Halleck's name forward to the Senate for confirmation.

The dispute between prosecutors and Halleck centers on the judge's bench comments last May in a criminal case. He charged the prosecuting attorney with sending a transcript last fall to the commission considering his reappointment.

The prosecutors filed a "memorandum of the United States to correct the record" on June 17, denying the office had ordered the transcript but acknowledging that the prosecutor in the case had written to the commission, which then ordered the transcript.

Halleck, who had removed himself from "any further dealings" with the case in May, refused on June 21 to allow the government memorandum to be filed and ordered it stricken from the record. He said it did not seek any particular relief from the court.

The next week prosecutors filed a second memorandum "correcting" or "supplementing" the record. On July 1, three days later, Halleck ordered the new documents stricken and "returned to their author."

The documents were made public in the prosecutors' request to the Court of Appeals July 15 to order Halleck to allow them to be filed in the case jacket. Halleck has not yet replied to the government petition.

All government briefs in the dispute have been signed by U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert and his two top assistants, including executive assistant Henry F. Greene, who has led the campaign against Halleck's renomination. Silbert's office has no public position on the reappointment, and Silbert and Greene said Greene is opposing Halleck as a private citizen.