

Lawyers Quit Over Nixon Rights Policy

Washington

Six young lawyers said yesterday they had resigned from the Justice Department to protest President Nixon's civil rights policies, claiming he had "retreated from the national commitment to racial equality."

The six, all staff attorneys in the civil rights division, told a news conference they planned to work as volunteers for Senator George S. McGovern's presidential candidacy because "this administration must be challenged at the polls by an informed American public."

The six attacked the administration's record on busing, and its attempts to amend the voting rights act.

"In other civil rights matters, some receiving public comment, some not, legal decisions were made on a political basis or because somebody high up knew the top people in a company and could not believe they discriminated," the group said in a statement.

But the lawyers offered no details on any incidents involving politics and Justice Department decisions.

Attorney General - designate Richard G. Kleindienst and Assistant attorney General David Norman, head of the Civil Rights Division, said in a statement the lawyers should have resigned if they could not carry out administration policy. But they added that the "administration is completely committed to the advancement of equal opportunities and justice for all citizens."

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