



O'Brien---

'Our System In Crisis'

Lawrence F. O'Brien yesterday cited President Nixon's appointment of Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist as evidence that "our governmental system is in crisis."

O'Brien, Senator George S. McGovern's campaign manager, called Justice Rehnquist's decision to participate in three cases where he had previously served the prosecution a symbol of "a dark age of repression where supposedly inviolate public rights vanish in a flash of governmental power."

After making a plea for compassion in politics and for preserving "the essential bonds of trust and good faith between the people and their leaders," O'Brien delivered his harsh indictment of

Rehnquist to the Commonwealth Club at the Sheraton-Palace.

"It has been traditional on the federal bench, and especially on the Supreme Court, for judges to disqualify themselves from cases in which they had some prior involvement or direct personal interest," O'Brien said.

"The American Bar Association has recently promulgated a new Code of Judicial Conduct. It says, 'A judge formerly employed by a governmental agency should disqualify himself in a proceeding if his impartiality might reasonably be questioned because of such association.'"
