

A New Try on Passports and Allegiance Oath

Washington

The Justice Department said yesterday it will seek congressional authority for the State Department to require passport applicants to take oaths of allegiance.

The U.S. Court of Appeals last October upheld a lower court ruling that the State Department lacks sufficient legal authority to require the oath, as it has done since Nov. 1, 1971.

Solicitor General Robert H. Bork said he had decided against appealing to the Supreme Court because of the appellate court's "persuasive" reasoning.

Instead, he said, the Justice and State Departments will collaborate on drafting a bill to be included in the President's 1974 legislative proposals to Congress.

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