

FORTAS SPURS COMMENT

Disclosure Law Is Seen

(States-Item Bureau) WASHINGTON—Sen. Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana predicted today that in the aftermath of the Justice Abe Fortas affair, Congress will move to enact legislation requiring federal judges to disclose publicly outside financial connections.

Ellender's comments came in a statement welcoming the news that Fortas has re-

signed from the Supreme Court in the face of outcry over his dealings with convicted securities manipulator Louis Wolfson.

"The cloud hanging over the Supreme Court because of the resignation of Justice Fortas will do serious harm to the court's standing in our government," Ellender said.

"IN LIGHT OF the disrespect for the law which seems to be growing in so many areas, it will also do harm to the nation as a whole."

"I have stated before that I do not believe any federal judge should accept outside fees of any kind whatsoever," Ellender continued.

"I think the information disclosed in the Fortas matter will lead Congress to enact laws calling for disclosure of the outside interests held by members of the federal judiciary."

REP. JOHN R. RARICK of Louisiana also interpreted the

Fortas controversy as a prelude to legislation requiring financial disclosure by federal judges.

"Something has got to be done, not only to protect the people from the dishonest ones, but also to protect the good federal judges," Rarick said.

In response to a question, however, Rarick said he has no qualms about Congress' asking judges to make a more thorough public disclosure than congressmen require of themselves.

"I AGREE there are some congressmen up here that use every kind of maneuver to conceal," Rarick said. "But there is a marked difference between those who have to be elected and federal judges."

"Congressmen are closely known to the people at home and the people can vote them out whenever they want to," he added.

REP. EDWIN W. EDWARDS of Louisiana termed the Fortas affair "an unfortunate situation" but said it opens the way for President Nixon "to replace the resigning justice with one whose thinking and philosophy are more in step with the thinking of loyal Americans everywhere."

Rep. Patrick Caffery of Louisiana issued this statement: "The Fortas affair has



REP. CAFFERY SEN. ELLENDER



REP. RARICK REP. EDWARDS

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caused doubts about the impartiality of the Supreme Court and it is good that the justice has seen fit to remove himself.

"The men who sit on our highest tribunal must have clean hands. Otherwise, our whole system of justice is in jeopardy."