

'Judicial Overkill'

To the Editor:

Senator Barry Goldwater in his Nov. 17 Op-Ed column "A Man of Highest Personal Integrity" states that Supreme Court nominee William Rehnquist "believes that the protection of individual rights should extend not only to the accused but also to society as a whole."

At the risk of sounding naive, it has always been my belief that until such time as he is judged guilty, every accused remains, at least in theory, a member of the whole society. A judge who thinks otherwise is a threat to the freedom of every potentially accused. Perhaps Messrs. Goldwater and Rehnquist do not consider themselves in that category, but common citizens do not enjoy their immunity.

As a defender of law and order, I fail to see how the present situation can be improved through the application of judicial overkill to American society.

JOHN KAROL

Orford, N. H., Nov. 17, 1971
