

4 MEN ARE NAMED IN COURT SEARCH

F.B.I. Inquiries Reported in
Hunt on Douglas's Post

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 25—The Ford Administration has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct full field investigations on four men as possible successors to the Supreme Court seat vacated by Associate Justice William O. Douglas two weeks ago, according to sources close to the Administration.

The President is expected to announce his choice for the Court by the end of the week.

The four are Vincent L. McKusick, a lawyer in Portland, Me., and three judges on the United States Court of Appeals—Arlin M. Adams of the Third Circuit, which sits in Philadelphia, and John Paul Stevens and Philip W. Tone of the Seventh Circuit, which sits in Chicago.

The fact that only those four men are being investigated does not necessarily mean that President Ford's list of possible nominees is limited to them. A few high ranking Government officials who have recently been checked by the F.B.I. are also regarded as possible choices.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi is considered the most likely of this other group. Mr.

Levi is known to have told friends that he does not expect to be appointed. However, one source familiar with the matter says that Roman L. Hruska, of Nebraska, the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, has told Mr. Ford that only Mr. Levi or a Senator could be confirmed quickly and easily.

Various sources said that several other persons previously considered as possible choices had been ruled out.

Representative Charles E. Wiggins, Republican of California, has been all but eliminated, one Administration source said, because Mr. Wiggins was the floor leader for the opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment.

Senator Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, also a Republican, has been eliminated because the President considers him too valuable in the Senate, according to a Presidential associate. The current Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, is expected to retire. Mr. Griffin would probably replace him as Republican leader.

60 Seen as Too Old

Philip W. Buchen, the President's first law partner and now his counsel at the White House, is said to have been ruled out because of age. He is 60. In the past, persons over that age have been appointed.

President Ford held a dinner at the White House last night to honor the Judiciary and several of those said to be under consideration for the vacancy attended, including Mr. Levi, Judge Adams and Judge Stevens.

At the dinner—and in judicial circles over the last few days

—several other names were mentioned as possibly contenders. Among them are Judges Charles Clark and Paul H. Roney of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, in New Orleans. Judge Roney was at last night's dinner; Judge Clark was not.

Judge Cornelia G. Kennedy of the United States District Court in Detroit, who was also at last night's dinner, was one of the lists of possible choices that the Administration gave to the American Bar Association for preliminary screening.

However, neither Judge Kennedy nor any other woman was on the list given to the F.B.I. for a field investigation.

Geography has often played a major part in the choice of a Supreme Court Justice, in part because each Justice must perform roles as a circuit Justice, handling motions from a particular judicial circuit, in addition to his regular duties.

Although it has not always been followed, the practice generally has been to spread the Supreme Court appointments about the country.

At the moment, there are no Supreme Court Justices from New England or from the Deep South, the home states of the present Justices at the time of their appointments were Minnesota, Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Colorado, Arizona and Virginia.

It is believed that a major factor in the consideration being given to Mr. McKusick is that his appointment would come from an area not now reflected in the Court.

Another factor that has often been weighed in choosing a nominee is judicial experience.