

Celler Predicts:

'Rehnquist in For Grilling'

Examiner News Services

Chairman Emanuel Celler of the House Judiciary Committee predicts that Supreme Court nominees Lewis F. Powell Jr. and William H. Rehnquist will win Senate confirmation but says he is not enthusiastic about Rehnquist's qualifications.

The New York Democrat said yesterday on a New York television interview program that Rehnquist is "an able lawyer, but I think there are many far better qualified than he for the Supreme Court."

Powell and Rehnquist were nominated last month by President Nixon to fill vacancies created by the retirements of Hugo L. Black and John M. Harlan. The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to open hearings on the nominations Wednesday.

President Nixon's southern nominee for the Supreme Court is also more acceptable to the NAACP than the Western nominee, according to Executive Director Roy Wilkins.

Wilkins called Powell of Virginia "a philosophical and scholarly gentleman," but he termed Rehnquist of Arizona a man whose "philosophy of law and order will kill you."

"When you go to him with pleas for understanding, he might not be able to see you for looking at law and order," Wilkins told the closing session of the Virginia NAACP convention yesterday.

Rehnquist has "made definite pronouncements against civil rights which indicated that he . . . was not for integration of blacks and whites," Celler said. "He's going to have his trouble answering questions on that score."