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Black Bar Asks Veto of Rehnquist

Washington

On the eve of a private, decision-making session of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the National Bar Association — representing more than 4000 black lawyers — urged the Senate yesterday to reject the nomination of William H. Rehnquist to the Supreme Court.

"We are concerned with his position in such areas as public accommodations, electronic surveillance, pre-trial detention and other pronouncements reflecting his political ideology," the association president, James W. Cobb, told a news conference.

Rehnquist, an assistant U.S. attorney general, was warmly defended in a Senate floor speech by Senator Robert Taft Jr. as the Judiciary Committee prepared for a vote on his nomination and that of Lewis F. Powell Jr., a Richmond, Va., lawyer.

STRATEGY

Although Powell's nomination has encountered no apparent opposition, Rehnquist's opponents planned to try to get the committee to recommend immediate confirmation of Powell and further investigation of Rehnquist, a lawyer from Phoenix, Ariz.

The St. Louis Post - Dispatch meanwhile reported discovery of documents prepared by the late Emily Brookes of Phoenix which suggested that Rehnquist once was a member of an alleged rightwing organization called Arizonans for America.

In a dispatch from Philadelphia, the paper said the documents were made available by Franklin H. Littell, a religious professor at Temple

University and an authority on extremist groups.

DENIAL

The paper said the documents showed that Rehnquist, who has denied membership in the organization, was listed among members who attended an Arizonans for America meeting on Oct. 10, 1960.

Rehnquist also was reported to have served as a panel speaker at a meeting of the organization on Sept. 18, 1958.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said the question of whether Rehnquist was a member of Arizonans for America has been thoroughly investigated by the FBI.

"The investigation showed that Mr. Rehnquist was one of four persons who participated in panel discussions sponsored by Arizonans for America on Sept. 12, 1958," Mitchell said.

"However, a review of the FBI report clearly indicates that he was not a member of the organization. . . ."

United Press