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REHNQUIST DENIES ARIZONA CHARGES

Tells 4 Senators He Didn't
Challenge Voters There

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—

William H. Rehnquist, one of President Nixon's nominees to the Supreme Court, denied Saturday accusations that he had challenged the qualifications of Negro voters and had belonged to a right-wing group in his home city of Phoenix, Ariz.

In a 24-page point-by-point reply to questions posed recently by four liberal Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Rehnquist also denied having said he was against all civil rights laws, as a black Arizona State Senator, Cloves Campbell, had charged.

Mr. Rehnquist's answers to 15 detailed questions posed by the Democratic Senators appeared to contain no statements that could provide ammunition against him when the Judiciary Committee meets on Tuesday morning to vote on his nomination. At the same time, the committee will vote on the nomination of Mr. Nixon's other nominee, Lewis F. Powell Jr.

Was Not Recalled

The written question-and-answer procedure was decided upon by the Judiciary Committee after it refused to recall Mr. Rehnquist for a final day of hearings to answer charges that he intimidated Negroes at a Phoenix precinct in 1964 as part of a Republican effort to "challenge" Democratic voters. He was also reported to have joined two right-wing groups, Arizonans for America and For America.

The committee arranged to have written questions submitted by the four Democrats—Birch Bayh of Indiana, Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Philip A. Hart of Michigan and John V. Tunney of California. This afternoon Mr. Rehnquist, who is an Assistant Attorney General, sent his answers to Senator Bayh, who released them to the press.

In his answers Mr. Rehnquist surveyed his role as a Republican election worker from 1958 to 1968 in Phoenix and declared: "In none of these years did I personally engage in challenging the qualifications of any voters." He added that he had a leadership position in giving the challengers legal training, but that he did not recruit them.

To Discourage Fraud

Mr. Rehnquist said that the challengers' purpose was to discourage vote frauds by providing a Republican presence at heavily Democratic precincts. On the one occasion when he saw a Republican challenger ask a voter to read the Arizona constitution, he said he called a stop to such "scatter-gun use of literary challenges."

"I have never been a member of Arizonans for America or For America," he added.

In response to newspaper reports that he appeared as a panelist in 1958 with three nationally known right-wing figures at a meeting sponsored by Arizonans for America, he said he now had no recollection of the event but has "no reason to dispute the newspaper accounts."

The four Senators had also included several questions designed to draw Mr. Rehnquist out on his philosophical views and to get him to elaborate on his earlier testimony that his attorney-client relation with the Attorney General precluded him from discussing his personal views of things he did as a Federal official.

His answers did not depart materially from his personal testimony. He did elaborate on his statement that he had little to do with the Pentagon papers controversy. He conceded that he telephoned The Washington Post and asked it not to publish matter from the secret papers. He said The Post refused.