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ACLU Votes to Oppose Rehnquist

New York

The national board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union, announced a departure from its policy of not opposing nominees for public office, said yesterday the ACLU will campaign against the confirmation of William Rehnquist to the United States Supreme Court.

"We have taken an extraordinary step because of extraordinary circumstances," said Edward J. Ennis, the ACLU chairman who announced the board decision.

Ennis said Rehnquist is "a dedicated opponent of individual liberties" and "we believe it would be a betrayal of the principles of our Constitution to entrust their interpretation to a person who

has devoted himself to undermining those principles."

"We know William Rehnquist as an advocate of dragnet arrests, as an opponent of racial integration, as a champion of executive authority to engage in electronic eavesdropping and political surveillance," the ACLU said.

It said that despite the lateness of the hour, it will campaign to bar his confirmation.

Rehnquist and Lewis F. Powell have been nominated by President Nixon to fill the two vacancies on the high court.

Powell's confirmation by the Senate is expected this week without serious opposition.

Associated Press
