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Summoner of President
Gordon Stanley Ringer

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When Gordon Ringer became head of the Los Angeles office of the State Attorney General's office in 1967, he engaged in a long series of acrimonious memorandums with a staff member, a Deputy Attorney General of a liberal bent of mind, on matters ranging from where lights should be placed, to the location of staff offices, to the length of staff members' hair.

**Man
in the
News**

"It constituted one of the highlights of the office for some time," a former staff member recalls. "Mr. Ringer," this staff member adds, "came down on the conservative side."

This former staff member uses the incident to show that Mr. Ringer, a nominal Democrat, is a man with a passion for neatness and order, and "of a conservative bent." Other associates say, however, that his strongest characteristic is not fastidiousness but "his brilliant legal mind."

'Great Analytic Ability'

Mr. Ringer was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court in July, 1972, by Gov. Ronald Reagan. Last week, he signed a subpoena for Richard M. Nixon to appear as a defense witness in proceedings against three former White House aides, including John D. Ehrlichman.

"He has great analytic ability. He is one of the outstanding appellate lawyers," says a fellow Superior Court judge, John Goertzen.

The man who became the first state court jurist to order a President of the United States to testify personally in court was born on Oct. 27, 1929, in Manhattan. His father, A. I. Ringer, was a physician; his mother, I. Ruth, a lawyer.

When the boy was five years old, his father closed up his practice and the family moved to Los Angeles. Mr. and Mrs. Ringer made real estate investments.

Young Mr. Ringer attended public school in Los Angeles. At 20, he was graduated from U.C.L.A. with a degree in philosophy. Between his junior and senior years he spent three months in France, where he acquired a fluent knowledge of French. He and his wife have translated a book from French, "Royce's Metaphysics" by Gabriel Marcel.

Fluent Reading Talent

Mr. Ringer earned his law degree at the University of Southern California Law School. After his admission to the bar in 1955, he went into private practice. During this time, Ringer also pursued a doctoral in Romance languages from U.C.L.A., but quit after two years.

Still, the experience left



Associated Press

Articulate and incisive

him, he says, with a fluent reading capability of Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, "about half a dozen" old French dialects, Catalan, Old Portuguese and an adequate reading knowledge of Latin, German and Old Norse.

In 1955, Mr. Ringer became a law clerk for the Superior Court. In 1961, he joined the State Attorney General's office, and rose to become Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Los Angeles office. One of his first actions was to reorganize the criminal division, which, according to the present division head, Clark Moore, "improved things considerably."

While Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Ringer set a kind of record by arguing 40 cases before the State Supreme Court. He also argued two cases before the United States Supreme Court.

"He's articulate and tells a story well," says Judge Goertzen, who dines regularly with Judge Ringer. He adds that Judge Ringer has an "incisive" sense of humor. "It might seem macabre but we joke about decisions of court much like a doctor would joke about an operation," Judge Goertzen says.

History and Music

Judge Ringer has a passion for military history, a love of classical music (Haydn and Chopin), and a fondness for medieval Romance poetry. He is also reported to have an appreciation for French cuisine.

Mr. Ringer is married to the former Virginia Hartt, who is chairman of the philosophy faculty at California State College at Long Beach. They were married Feb. 2, 1953, and have one son, Mark, 14. The Ringers live in a one-story home overlooking the bay in Long Beach.

The judge is described by his associates as a hard working man who will often work weekends while on a case. Invariably his associates add the adjectives "fair, courteous and polite."