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Haynsworth Confirmation Faces Sparse Opposition in the Senate

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 — Clement F. Haynsworth Jr.'s nomination to the Supreme Court appeared to be encountering little opposition today as the Senate reconvened after its August recess.

The prevailing attitude among the Senate's liberals — who would be expected to form the core of any effective anticonfirmation movement—was to reserve judgment until after the hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Barring a disastrous appearance by Judge Haynsworth at the hearings, which begin next Tuesday, the feeling was that the courtly South Carolina judge would be confirmed.

Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, became the first Senator to indicate outright opposition to the nomination today when he told reporters that "if you were totaling up the score I think you would have to put me in the 'no' class."

Liberals Are Cautious

Mr. Javits was also the only Senator to predict a serious contest over the nomination. He said it was "shaping up as a real battle." But when he was asked if he expected the Haynsworth nomination to be rejected, he replied: "I doubt that very much."

Liberals on the Judiciary Committee tended to adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, the Democratic whip, said he would enter the hearings with "a completely open mind. I will make my judgment on the basis of the hearing record."

Senator Philip A. Hart, the

Michigan Democrat who has tended to be the leader of the meager liberal forces on the Judiciary Committee, indicated dissatisfaction with the nominee's conservative background on civil rights issues.

"It's just the wrong signal to give to the country at this time. It weakens the leadership of those who appeal to disadvantaged people to work within the law," he said.

But he said that the Senate should not block a judicial nomination if the appointee was "competent in the law and honest." He added that the committee should delve deeply into the conflict-of-interest charge that has been leveled against Judge Haynsworth, but that he would reserve judgment until he heard the testimony.

Eastland Denies Conflict

Judge Haynsworth has conceded that in 1963, when he wrote the opinion in a 3-to-2 decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit in favor of Deering-Milliken, Inc., he owned shares in a vending machine company that did business with Deering-Milliken.

Today, Senator James O. Eastland, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said he had examined the Justice Department's files on the matter and had concluded that the accusations of a conflict-of-interest were unwarranted. He predicted that the Senate would confirm Judge Haynsworth.

"I've seen the Justice Department file on this vending thing," the Mississippi Democrat said, "and there's nothing to it."