

High Court Urged To Keep Tabs on Doings of Judges

Washington - (UPI) - A former government official has urged that the supreme court keep tabs on the business activities of all federal judges to assure public protection from judicial corruption.

Joseph Borkin, chief economist in the justice department's antitrust division during the Roosevelt administration, made the proposal in a book scheduled for publication tomorrow.

Borkin, a lawyer and author of two other widely read works, spent 10 years compiling information to chronicle the first book ever written on the subject of judicial corruption in America. Publisher is Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., New York City.

"There have been comparatively few corrupt judges in the past," he said in an interview, "but the effects of their corruption has reflected on the character of the whole bench."

Trying Times
He said, however, "These are trying times for judges of weak character and bad investments. The stock market crash earlier this year was exactly the sort of economic crisis that tests a judge's honesty in the face of financial disaster."

The pattern of the past, he wrote in the book, has been for "unsettled economic conditions, particularly those associated with a depression, coupled with a deteriorating state of a judge's financial condition, (to) produce a climate in which judicial corruption can flourish."

He said "insolvency and financial difficulty - resulting from falling investments - are the worst diseases that can afflict a judge. The pressure of creditors, plus attempts to recoup, have led to ever deeper involvement. "Not only were these judges easy marks for corruptors," he wrote, "but they themselves were driven to place their judicial function on the

market ... for susceptible litigants and lawyers."

Many businessmen and even some judges, he noted, "are bound to have suffered financial losses in the 1962 stock market crash. Their mutual difficulties might drive some of them together into mutually agreeable transactions to cover these losses."

Statements Urged
To prevent the emergence of new corrupt judges, he said, the supreme court should step in under its rule-making power and require statements from all circuit and district court judges regarding their extrajudicial business activities.

Borkin suggested that "these reports, of course, should remain confidential, available only to the (supreme) court and a special master, to be appointed with the power to call for further data if necessary."

Without interfering with the right of a judge to invest and manage his assets, he said, "lawyers, litigants, colleagues and the public generally could rest more securely confident that a judge's private business activity is within the bounds of propriety and legality."

"The Corrupt Judge" scans the history of misconduct in the U.S. Federal judiciary, with depth studies of the cases of three of the most prominent judges to fall from the bench.

Three Identified
These three were: Martin T. Manton, senior judge of the U.S. 2nd circuit appeals court, convicted in 1939 of a charge of "conspiracy to sell justice," fined \$10,000 and sentenced to two years in prison; John Warren Davis, senior judge of the U.S. 3rd circuit appeals court, whose resignation waiving pension and retirement rights in 1941 stopped impeachment proceedings; and Albert W. Johnson, federal judge of the middle district of Pennsylvania, who also chose retirement and renunciation of pension rights to halt impeachment proceedings.

Borkin commented that "when one considers that at least two of the bribes made to federal judges were in excess of \$250,000, one can readily see how even a few corrupt judges can poison the well of justice."

In 1942, Borkin was co-author of a study of cartels - "Germany's Master Plan, the Story of the Industrial Offensive" - which reached the best seller lists. He co-authored "Television: A Struggle for Power," in 1938.

CUB SCOUT NEWS

Pack 5
The Cub Scouts Pack 5 of Jefferson school and their families attended the November Pack meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 27. Flag ceremony was conducted by Den 2.

Entertainment and awards highlighted the evening. Den 8 presented a skit entitled "Phantom of the Fire House." Den 4 conducted a wild west show.

R. E. Pope presented the awards. These and the boys who received them included: Wolf badges to Jerry Crippen, David Farmer, Jerry Wagar, and David Gross; with gold and silver arrows, Jerry Szpak.

Bear gold arrows were presented to Robert Farmer and Steve Crippen. Denner stripes were presented David Farmer and Jerry Szpak, and assistant denner stripes to Michael Pope and David Gross.

Scott McConnell, Steve Crippen, Robert Farmer, Kent Duysen and Dale Williamson were presented two year pins. Mrs. Jay Szpak was awarded a four year pin.

Cubmaster Wayne Bennett connected ceremonies for induction of new boys into Cub Scouts. Bobcat pins were presented to Ralph Jenkins, Robert Wilson, Mark McLean, Robert Johnston, Michael Ritchie, Ronald Riesburg and Michael Adams.

Den 2 was again awarded the "Cubbie" for having the highest percentage of parents at the meeting.

Frank Taylor announced that the date of the next Pack meeting has been set up to Tuesday, Dec. 11. The meeting closed with participation of the Pack in "The Living Circle."

Victory Dinner Planned in Eugene

A Victory dinner in honor of the Robert B. Duncan for Congress volunteers will be held in Eugene Friday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the YMCA.

The dinner will be catered by a committee of the Lane County Democratic Central committee. Tickets are available in Medford from W. G. Beard, telephone 773-2564.

Duncan, Medford lawyer, was elected to Congress from the Fourth district. He expects to leave for Washington, D.C. with his family shortly after Dec. 14.

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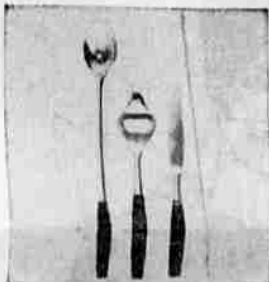
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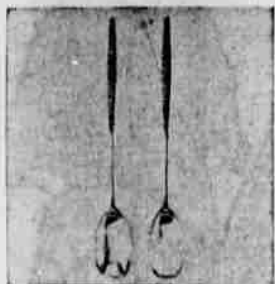
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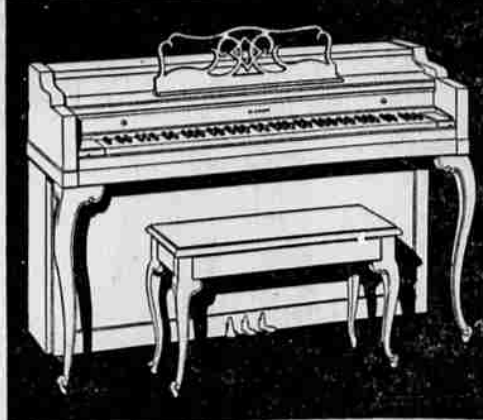
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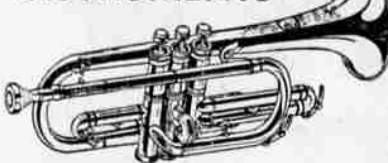


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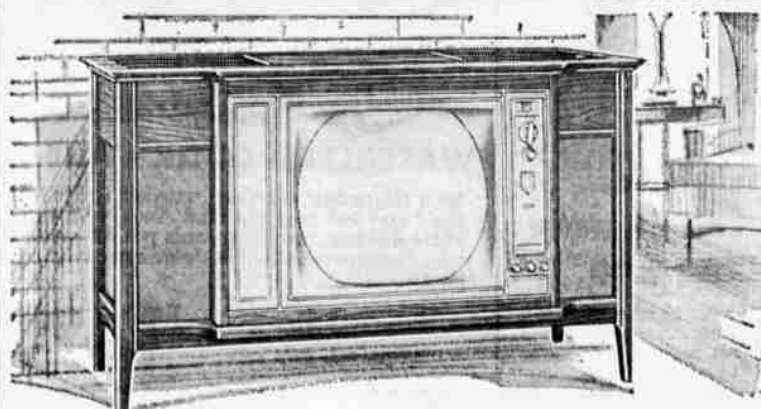
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