

AJC REJECTS JEWISH SUPREME CT. SEAT CONCEPT

NEW YORK -- The American Jewish Congress rejected the concept of a "Jewish seat" on the U. S. Supreme Court and criticized Senator Ernest A. Hollings, Democrat of South Carolina, "for injecting the 'Jewish question' into the debate over Federal Judge Clement F. Haynsworth's nomination to the U. S. Supreme Court," Shad Poller, chairman of

the organization's national Governing Council, declared in a telegram to Sen. Hollings in Washington: "Quite apart from any consideration of the charges of conflict of interest against Judge Haynsworth, the American Jewish Congress has vigorously opposed his nomination to the U. S. Supreme Court, We do so not because he has been named

for any 'Jewish seat' but because we oppose his judicial philosophy.

"Neither race nor religion nor national origin should enter into consideration in choosing a member of the country's highest tribunal."

Sen. Hollings has been quoted in the New York Times as declaring that Jewish circles were raising extraneous issues, including the 'Jewish question,' and that Judge Haynsworth is being opposed by Jewish groups because, presumably, 'Brandeis, Cardozo and Goldberg used to have a seat,' now 'Haynsworth's got it' and 'Jews don't like it.'

The telegram also stated: "As an organization of American Jews, we in the American Jewish Congress would of course take pride in the appointment of a Jew to the bench. But we reject the concept of a 'Jewish seat' and we are committed to the idea that the sole qualification for membership on the Supreme Court of the United States shall be merit.

"We have examined Judge Haynsworth's opinions as a Federal court Judge and we have noted that he has consistently voted for the strictest possible confinement of the desegregation rulings. "It is noteworthy that his opinions on desegregation have been a minority or dis-

senting view even among his fellow Southerners in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

"On all these issues, the Supreme Court has ultimately resolved the question adversely to the position taken by Judge Haynsworth. What this suggests is that, when free to decide cases unlimited by the rulings of a higher court -- as he would be on the Supreme Court -- Judge Haynsworth would vote to reverse the present trend in court decisions toward prompt and effective desegregation.

"His views on persons charged with crimes, as expressed in his dissenting opinions, show that he did not go along with his colleagues in the Fourth Circuit of Appeals in at least 12 decisions setting aside convictions on such grounds as the use of coerced confessions and the introduction of improperly seized evidence.

"We think no good purpose is served in injecting the 'Jewish question' into the debate over his nomination.

"And we reiterate our view that the nation's efforts to solve its critical racial problems and to advance the rights and liberties of its citizens would be gravely impaired by the appointment to the Supreme Court of a person with his record."

DETROIT, Oct. 24....Asserting that "far more often than not, Jews are the first victims of the sick society," Bertram H. Gold, executive head of the American Jewish Committee urged the leadership of the human relations agency "to agree together" that they should concern themselves with "many insidious developments that serve to dehumanize the quality of life."

DETROIT, ...Philip E. Hoffman, President of the American Jewish Committee, said that Israeli Premier Golda Meir's recent triumphal visit to the United States was one of the bright hopes for peace in the Middle East.

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American businessman John H. Meier of Las Vegas, Nevada, received the coveted Christopher Columbus Award for merit in scientific and ecological studies. Mr. Meier, who serves on President Nixon's Task Force on the Environment, was presented the award by President Joaquin Balaguer of the Dominican Republic in a formal ceremony attended by U. S. Ambassador Francis Molloy.

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