## Strom Thurmond & Allies

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race and sex, but it goes beyond these familiar contentions to a question of philosophy, a desire to retard the role of the courts in the defense of basic human and social rights. Conservatives are eager in their anticipation of a Reagan victory which would enable them to pack the court system and reverse the march toward genuine equal justice under the law.

The worst case among the six smacks of extortion. Far-right North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms has refused to return the "Blue Slip" on North Carolina nominee Richard Erwin. (The "Blue Slip" system, once supposedly dead, is still alive and well. It gives a senator an automatic veto of any judicial nominee from the senator's state.) Erwin's confirmation hearing in the Senate has been

described as "honeymoon."

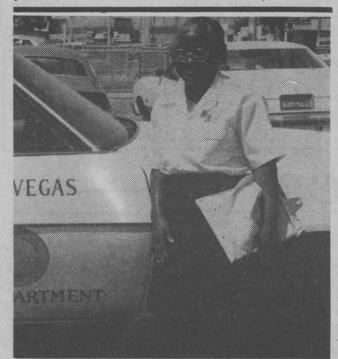
However, in addition to being black, his record in the North Carolina state legislature confirms that he is also pro-labor. Helms reportedly has stated, "This man tried to gut our right to work laws...and is prounion." Helms is further reported to have attempted a deal where he would sign off on the nomination if Erwin would admit publicly that he had made a "mistake" in introducing legislation to amend his state's right to work law in order to support the rights of workers to organize. Erwin, now a state judge and an honorable one at that, refused on the grounds of principle.

The philosophical design to disrupt and change the American judicial system goes beyond the courts. Reaganites in the Senate recently demanded fur-

ther hearings on an obscure U.S. Parole Board nominee from Minnesota, Les Green, whose public and private record had already been thoroughly scrutinized. Democrats, trying to complete confirmation proceedings before adjournment, asked what more was there to hear with regard to the Green appointment. He was chosen for the board specifically because he is an ex-offender and is thought to bring a different point of view to the parole process. He is also black.

Much of the appointment blocking strategy can be traced to the smoke-filled rooms of the Republican Convention in Detroit, where Strom Thurmond was given the go-ahead by the Reagan camp to do everything necessary to plow under the pending nominations. This maneuvering is political, pure and simple.

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MARTHA HOGAN

### Martha Hogan Is Senior Fire Aide

The Las Vegas Fire Department would like to introduce to you Senior Fire Aide Martha Hogan.

Mrs. Hogan, 65, moved from Birmingham, Alabama to Las Vegas in 1953. She attended Lewis School in Birmingham. She was employed at the Sands Hotel for 23 years as an inspector. Mrs. Hogan recently celebrated her 50th Wedding Anniversary. She has 2

children, 4 grandchildren, and 9 greatgrandchildren. She is a member of Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

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