

Program for Screening Judicial Aspirants

Bar Presidents to Be Briefed on 'Queens Plan'

"Lawyers know good judges best."

In keeping with this theme, the Queens Bar Association will play host to the presidents of all bar associations in the metropolitan area Jan. 4 at 4 P. M. to describe the workings of its proposed "Queens Plan" for selection and election of judges.

The meeting will be held in the Queens Bar Association Building, 90-35 148th street, Jamaica.

The presidents of the Nassau, Suffolk, Brooklyn, New York City, Bronx, Richmond and Westchester Bar Associations and the New York County Lawyers Society have been invited to the session.

"We hope to obtain the support, approval and endorsement of our plan for enactment in neighboring counties," Sidney M. Spero, Queens Bar Association president, said.

THE "QUEENS Plan" hopes to assure the election of the "best qualified judges" — and a follow up system to insure their "continued best performance on the bench."

Spero explained that the

Queens lawyers would review the qualifications of judicial candidates, and either campaign strongly for them or work to defeat those who do not meet their predetermined standards.

The bar will raise funds to elect those it approves—and to defeat those it disapproves.

In Cleveland, where a similar plan began in 1912, 78 per cent of the 259 candidates endorsed have been elected. In the past nine years, 85 per cent have won.

The second part of the "Queens Plan"—the follow-up—will be tried here for the first time. Under the plan, Queens lawyers will keep a "perpetual inventory" of actions of sitting judges, and will vote against reelection or reappointment of those who do not meet the association standards of judicial conduct.

The plan, devised by an association select committee, was approved and adopted by the Queens Bar Association membership at a special meeting on Nov. 20, 1961.

UNDER THE plan minimum qualifications for judges and the method of acting upon aspirants for judicial office are established.

The lawyers will propose laws to reform methods of selecting judges, establish a public information service and work out the follow-up process. The "Queens Plan" has been applauded throughout the nation.

Ben R. Miller of New Orleans, chairman of the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Non-Partisan Selection of Federal Judiciary, stated:

"The Queens Bar Association is certainly to be congratulated on its courage and my hat is off to all who are working so vigorously in this most sensitive area of a lawyer's responsibility."

Dean Sheldon D. Elliott, director of New York University's Institute of Judicial Administration, commented:

"The Queens Bar Association is to be sincerely congratulated on the successful fruition of the Select Committee's efforts. We look forward to the spread of this program to other bar associations."

JOHN E. BERRY, executive director of the New York State Bar Association, wrote: "We are most anxious to im-

prove the selection of judges throughout the state and the direction which Queens can give could be most helpful. This is a very fine effort on the part of the Queens Bar. I shall look forward to hearing of the reaction of the other metropolitan bar association."

The association's Select Committee has also set a long range goal for itself, looking to

legislative reform of the laws relating to the election of judges.

Study is now being given to the development of legislation to establish separate elections for judges; the establishment of open primaries for judicial candidates who can seek public support without political party label; the requirement that secretaries to judges be mem-

bers of the legal profession and not practice private law while so serving, and the barring of political leaders from serving in court posts.

Members of the Select Committee are Joseph J. Perrini of Queens Village, chairman; Nat H. Hentel of Queens Village, vice-chairman; George J. Balbach of Jackson Heights, Robert L. Klein of Great Neck,

Matthew J. Tosti of Jamaica Estates, Thomas D. Austin of Jamaica, Hugh G. Bergen of Jamaica, L. Gary Clemente of Jamaica Estates, Lincoln D. Harkow of Forest Hills, and Murray Stockman of Forest Hills.



HELP SOUGHT—Assemblyman Louis Wallach of Little Neck calls Albany to learn why Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kreisberg of Glen Oaks can't get financial medical assistance for their baby Andrea Susan. The 52-day-old infant is in the premature nursery in North Shore Hospital, Manhasset, and the Kreisbergs have been unable to get state aid to help pay her hospital bill of \$25 a day, because the baby was born in Nassau and the parents live in Queens. Wallach promised to file a bill in Albany to get the state to offer financial assistance for tiny Andrea, the girl without a County. The baby weighs 4-pounds 5-ounces and will be released from the hospital when she's five pounds.

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Board Votes

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ASSESSMENT ACTION
 In other action, the final step to eliminate local assessments by Jan. 1, was approved by the board.

As of Jan. 1, all payments for street and sewer improvements will be made through city-wide taxation—one year ahead of the new City Charter which provides for abolishing assessments for sewer and street improvements by Jan. 1, 1963.

LICENSING SWITCH
 The board also approved transferring jurisdiction over public dance halls, cabarets and catering establishments from the Police Department to the License Department.

The bill, however, still requires the License Department to issue identification cards for cabaret and dance hall employees.

NEW LIBRARY HOURS
 The Board of Estimate yesterday approved the shifting of \$30,000 in library expense budget funds to staff six Queens libraries to offer six-day service.

The six branches will begin their Monday through Saturday service Jan. 2. They are now open Monday through Friday only. The North Queens branches are McGoldrick branch, Flushing, and the Whitestone branch.

Q-28 ROUTE CHANGED
 The board approved a change in the route of the Q-28 bus line, a Transit Authority line which services Flushing and the Bayside West area.

The change was requested by the Transit Authority in order to provide bus service to new homes in the area bounded by 16th and 23rd avenues, Corporal Kennedy street and Belt boulevard.

STATION SITE OK'D
 A site for the new Flushing police station at Union street and 37th avenue was approved by the board.

The site comprises 27,500 square feet and has a frontage of 212 feet on 37th avenue and about 126 feet on Union street. The site includes 8,250 square feet of city-owned land and 19,250 square feet of privately-owned land. The board approved acquisition of the privately-owned parcel which has an assessed valuation of \$33,000. The present police station for the 109th Precinct is located at 33-0 Prince street.



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