

Q. Judge, aside from a unified court system, do you think it's consistent to give the Governor more executive power and at the same time make him practically a figurehead in naming judges?

Judge Hammond: Are you speaking of the Niles Plan?

Reporter: Yes.

Judge Hammond: I think I can best answer that by saying that I am heartily in favor of the so-called Niles Plan as provided in the Constitution.

Q. How do you feel about that, Governor?

Governor: Well, I have had some reservations about a man running against his record. I have said this in the past, but I have supported the Niles Plan as it's embodied in the existing Constitution as an improvement in the present system. I want to emphasize one thing — this Constitution is not perfect. It's impossible to devise an instrument this all encompassing that's acceptable to everyone. There is so much more in this instrument that is good to those people who have studied it thoroughly — I don't obviate the fact that there may be some very sincere protesters to the instrument — but there is so much more good than there is erroneous that we would be much better off to pass it and then amend out anything that is found to be impractical or unworkable than to start on a piecemeal basis to try to amend the existing, very fragmented document that we have.

Q. How do you feel about the Governor being confined to an appointment list to choose from two possible, and not more than five —?

Governor: Well, I work — I made a commitment to myself that I will work within the bar lists, and I haven't left them yet. I think it's the greatest assistance to the Governor to have the solid judgment of the bar associations to assist him in the appointment of judges. So this restriction doesn't worry me particularly.

Q. In case you didn't like or couldn't appoint one of the recommendees, what do you think about the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals making the appointment?

Governor: In case I didn't like or couldn't? If I can't make a decision, I suppose I should be willing to abdicate from that responsibility.

Q. Marvin, you have had your ear pretty close to the ground so far as the House is concerned; what's the sentiment within the House?

Speaker Mandel: In the House of Delegates? I've never really made any attempt to canvass the House of Delegates as to the sentiment,