



NINTH JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

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October 6, 1992

John D. Feerick, Co-Chair
Coalition for Effective Government
c/o Association of the Bar of the City of New York
42 West 44th Street
New York, New York 10036-6690

Dear Chairman Feerick:

We noted with interest your participation at the recent program held in White Plains, "Paralysis of Politics: Reinvigorating Democracy", reported by Gannett newspapers.

Due to the fact that we were unaware of the program in advance, we did not send a representative from the Ninth Judicial Committee. As the enclosed articles indicate, the consensus from the speakers was that citizens must seize the initiative and force government to be responsive.

Since we assume that you were one of the articulators of this view, we suggest that it would be useful if, in the future, the Coalition would bring events of this type to the attention of member-groups. In such fashion, groups such as the Ninth Judicial Committee could provide the public with positive role-models for meaningful citizen involvement.

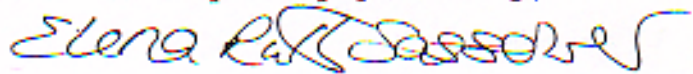
We understand from Jim Whelan that a Steering Committee meeting of the Coalition has been scheduled for October 16th at 8:30 a.m. at the City Bar. With your permission, we would be most interested in attending--and in contributing our ideas as to how the Coalition might improve its effectiveness.

On another subject, we are most distressed that we have not heard from you--in your capacity as President of the City Bar--as to the evidentiary issues presented by the critique we submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee last May.

Although almost five months have elapsed since our critique was forwarded to you, there has been no public announcement by the City Bar retracting its approval of Mr. O'Rourke's judicial qualifications.

Under your leadership, we expect the City Bar will not only recognize its responsibility to the public in this matter--but will take special pride in the extraordinary accomplishment that our pro bono citizens' group has rendered by its critique.

Yours for a quality judiciary,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER
Coordinator, Ninth Judicial Committee

Enclosures:

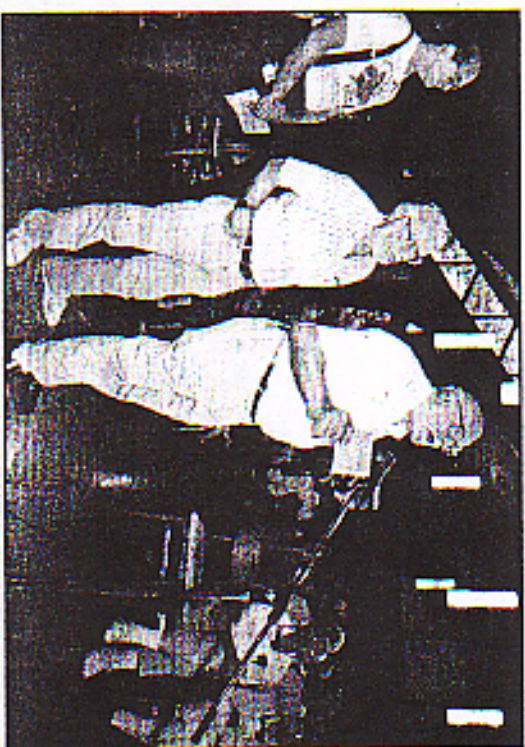
- (a) "Forum Panel Sees An Electorate Angered By Lack of Choice, Trust", Gannett, 9/21/92
- (b) "Exercise Your Right to Exorcise Paralysis", Gannett, 9/27/92

cc: Jim Whelan, Coalition

THE REFORMER DISMOUNT

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Staff photo/Walter Funches

Skip Mendler of Armonk and Joe Losly of Hastings wait to address the forum as Irwin Brussel-Smith makes a point.

Forum panel sees an electorate angered by lack of choice, trust

By John Reiman

Staff Writer

It was a scene that brought back fading memories of the turbulent '60s.

One after another, the speakers rose and denounced American politics as dirty, dishonest and devoted to serving the greedy rich. The crowd of about 200 repeatedly broke into applause as the assembled orators blathered the hides of politicians from Albany to Washington.

But this wasn't a bunch of hippies shouting through bullhorns in a park. The speakers at Community Unlari-

► Excerpts from forum, A12

an Church at White Plains yesterday ranked among the nation's most distinguished political journalists and commentators.

In their pessimistic, at times angry, assessment of the American body politic, however, they demonstrated why this has been the most chaotic election year since the Vietnam War dominated all other issues in 1968.

The occasion was a public forum, "The Paralysis of American Politics: Reinvigorating Democracy." Sponsored

Please see **FORUM**, back page

