

However, I think the editor who wrote that editorial was entirely sincere—sincere, but ignorant. He doesn't know what he is talking about, although he means what he says. And any man is in a bad fix when he means what he says without knowing what he is saying.

There isn't a judge on the bench in this country who doesn't know that he is handicapped in the dispensation of justice by the few who control political nominations, instead of by the people whom Kohlsaat dubs the mob.

Instead of truckling to the "fickle notions of majorities," too many judges, because they are human, have to truckle more or less to the domineering minorities—the men who control political nominations and elections.

There isn't a judge on the bench in Chicago who isn't more afraid of the bossy newspapers than he is of the people. And that is because he knows he will be misrepresented to the people by the newspapers if he fails to obey newspaper orders.

Every young lawyer when he starts in to build himself up in his profession has a laudable ambition to be a judge some day. He knows he can't be elected judge unless he is nominated. He knows he can't be nominated unless he plays the political game with the fellows who control nominations. So he runs with the machine and carries favor with political newspapers and other bosses.

After he is elected and takes his place on the bench the judge begins to think of a second term. He has to keep in the good graces of the political powers that be. He has sold himself into political slavery. He dare not offend the few men who can prevent his renomination.

And every few years he must climb down off the bench and wade in party political filth up to his eyes in order to be renominated and re-elected.

There isn't an honest judge who wouldn't feel much freer to be a just judge if he had to run but once and then could remain a judge during good behavior, or until recalled by the people.

The people don't want special privileges in courts. They never got any and don't expect any. They are sore at the courts, at judges and at the law, because they know there are a few who enjoy special privileges in many courts—privileges the many never get.

If judges were nominated by petition, without party designation and for an indefinite term, they would not need to fear political bosses, newspapers or the so-called mob. It would be a very difficult matter to drive an honest judge from the bench by the recall. He would be much safer in the hands of the people than he is now, when he holds his job subject to the whim of political and newspaper bosses.

If a judge is honestly doing his duty, what is the sense in making him run for office every few years like a ward politician?

There is no sense in it at all, providing the people are protected against judicial crooks by the right of recall. There is no protection for the people against crooked judges when they are appointed for life, and without the right of recall vested in the people.

I don't believe any honest judge is afraid of the recall, when it is in the hands of the people. But he has good reason to be afraid of it when it is in the hands of crooked political bosses.

We have had some shameful examples in Cook county of judges who fawned upon party and newspaper bosses. They kissed the hand that fed them.

Lawyers as a rule are poor citizens, although better fitted to be valuable citizens, by their special training and education, than any other class. The