

CHIEF JUSTICE AGAINST REELECTION

Incumbent elective officials, who are running for reelection, should be made to resign one year before election day.

This was proposed by Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion of the Supreme Court as an alternative to his earlier proposal to ban immediate reelection for the President and all other elective officials.

In an interview, Concepcion further amplified his no-immediate reelection plan which, he said, would minimize the "corroding effects of too much politics" in this country.

Concepcion made his no-reelection proposal in a speech before the Philippine Bar Association in observance of World Law Day.

Concepcion had said that a public officer who seeks a second term of office is under a terrific handicap in the performance of his functions.

Often, he said, reelectionists use the powers and influence of their offices to advance their candidacy, in-

stead of promoting public welfare.

If the proposed prohibition on immediate reelection cannot be pushed through, the Chief Justice said, the next best alternative is to amend existing provisions of law or the Constitution to require reelectionists to resign from office a year before election day.

The alternative plan, Concepcion hoped, would likewise achieve the objective of minimizing too much politicking among elective officials.

This is so, Concepcion explained, because it is usually during the last few months before elections that the officials play politics.

The reelection of officials is also to blame for expensive poll expenses, he said. A reelectionist is likely to spend more to keep himself in power, while his opponents will try to offset the advantages of the incumbent by excessive spending, Concepcion said. — *Manila Times*, Oct., 1968.