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Call Our Justices 'The Untouchables'

THE SUPREME Court of the United States, perhaps as much as any other single institution, must be held responsible for lawlessness that is preying upon our citizens.

This is because members of the court have applied their personal social and political belief to assure rights of criminals without due regard for rights of crime victims.

The revolting order for a new trial for Glen Burton Ake, a confessed and convicted killer of robbery victims, is just another in a long list of its distortions of justice.

In case after case the court has rescued offenders from punishment and apparently disregarded the suffering and losses of their victims. Many of these cases ought never have been accepted for hearing by the high court because they had been thoroughly thrashed out by state and federal courts.

Supreme Court justices get away with this audacity because they are immune to the will of the people.

They may be removed from office only through impeachment in Congress and this is a political impracticability.

The objective of this nation's founders to create a court that would be "above politics" seemed to work for about 150 years. When presidents began "packing the court," it became just another political tool.

Justice William H. Rehnquist has said he sees nothing wrong with a president trying to pack the court with nominees "sympathetic to his political or philosophical principles."

Sen. David Boren introduced a bill in Congress in 1979 which would have submitted to vote a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of all federal judges. No other senator joined Boren as a sponsor and his proposal got nowhere.

Last year the American Bar Association estimated there were about twice as many lawyers as in 1970, one for every 363 persons. This part-

ly accounts for the epidemic of litigation and appeals. Lawyers are looking for something to do.

Businesses, doctors, professors and even directors of charitable organizations are among those being sued. The general counsel of the House of Representatives says lawsuits against members of Congress are proliferating.

But there's no way the public can get at the Supreme Court of the United States. Justices can't be voted out of office. They can't be fired by presidents who appoint them. They can't be sued. They are political untouchables, imposing their social and political reforms upon us.

An Arkansas congressman commented recently that the "Supreme Court could find a loophole in the Ten Commandments."

It certainly found a loophole for Glen Burton Ake. He probably never will receive the punishment he deserves for misdeeds he has committed. Neither will the Supreme Court.

If you have ever written pg 1 editorial material -- this had to be your very best. That has to be the nation's biggest problem -- besides money -- and, too much TIP-ing.

Sharon

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Dear Mr. Deering:

I always read your editorials; you're usually right on the money. And in this one, on the Supreme Court judges, you are RIGHT. But, WHY do you stop before the bottom line: "America's Judges are our worst criminals."

We'll never have any justice in America till we start eliminating a huge percentage by some means, at least by impeachment and hanging.

Best wishes


Glenn M. McGuckin