

3 Judges Stand Out As Possible Successors To Bowe

By Earl Moses

Three Circuit Court judges are being mentioned prominently as possible successors to the late Augustine J. Bowe as

head of the Chicago Municipal Court.

They are Joseph A. Power and Casimir V. Cwiklinski, both assigned to the Criminal Court, and Daniel J. McNamara, assigned to the Circuit Court law-jury division.

Chief Judge John S. Boyle declined Sunday to comment on the speculation, except to say, "We have 72 qualified

Circuit Court judges. They are all under consideration."

Boyle will name the new presiding judge after consulting with his nine-judge executive committee. The committee is expected to begin huddling this week, screening contenders for the job.

Judge Bowe died of a heart attack Feb. 6 while strolling near his home at 1120 N. Lake

Shore Dr. He was 73.

As head of the sprawling Municipal Court division, the presiding judge will supervise the operations of 36 associate judges and a host of magistrates. Coming under his aegis will be the often-troublesome

Traffic Court.

For such a sensitive position, Boyle is anxious to find "a hard-nosed administrator."

McNamara was mentioned in 1964 as a possible candidate for the post which Boyle eventually won. He gained ad-

ministrative experience as head of the Family Court, and once filled in briefly as chief justice of the Municipal Court.

Cwiklinski also has administrative experience, gained as a former supervising judge of the Traffic Court.

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Put Cops on Credit Beat

Mayor Daley has acted to close a gap in the public's defenses against shady consumer credit practices and exorbitant charges. It may be a year before the State Legislature can take up new credit legislation. In the meantime, Daley has appointed attorney Jerome Schur as a special assistant corporation counsel to keep an eye on consumer credit cases in the courts under existing laws.

Schur is empowered to conduct investigations and handle complaints, and will surely have valuable suggestions for the next session of the General Assembly.

Unfortunately, Schur's office lacks the power to fill the vacuum created three years ago when a special court commissioner to track down credit sharks was quietly dropped. Commissioner John J.

King, like Schur, had an office and access to the records. But he had something more—a pair of hard-driving Chicago detectives, Aurelio Garcia and Sylvester Rhem, who got their feet muddy out in the str developing cases and making arrests. the unscrupulous merchant knew that a man somewhere downtown was sifting through the court records, and also that the next man through the door might be a tough and knowledgeable policeman.

Augustine J. Bowe, the late chief justice of the Municipal Court, credited King's approach with "materially and substantially" reducing garnishments and abuses.

Schur has a valuable service to perform, but he will be a watchdog without teeth until he can assign investigators in the war against credit abuses.