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ICYMI: “Senate Should Give Christie's Supreme Court Nominee A

Monday, March 21, 2016

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Senate should give Christie's Supreme Court nominee a hearing | Kean & Byrne

Editorial Board

Star-Ledger

The following exchange between former New Jersey governors took place via telephone last week.

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Q: Gov. Christie has nominated a new Supreme Court justice and challenged Democrats to give him a hearing, which Sen. Sweeney says he won't do because it would upset the political balance on the court. Should the Senate give him a hearing?

KEAN: This is much worse than at the federal level. To start with, the governor is not in his last year, as is the president. It sets a terrible precedent for one man, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to hold up a nominee on the grounds of party ideology. To the best of my knowledge we have never done that in New Jersey. If it happens this time, however, it will happen again and again. The judges ought to be picked on the basis of competence, and that ought to be the only criteria. To not even consider a nominee is going to be another black eye for a Supreme Court that used to be the envy of the country.

BYRNE: I think the senate should give the governor's nominee a hearing. As long as Sweeney is a senator, he should allow a vote. And if the nominee is an outstanding person, he or she ought to be confirmed.

Q: Are there any parallels here to the vow of Republican U.S. Senate leaders not to consider a U.S. Supreme Court nomination by President Obama?

KEAN: I don't know what to say except what I just said. The federal level has always been more ideological. New Jersey judges have been picked by both political parties on merit. Let's have the hearing. If there are problems, let's find out what they are. If not, he ought to be confirmed.

BYRNE: As I just said, I think we play politics with these nominations, and we ought not to.

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Full article [HERE](#).

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