

PATHFINDER

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EDITORIAL

Aged 70 and Over

If the President's plan succeeds, and if these six decline to retire, six additional justices will be named to enlarge the government's judicial branch to a membership of 15. The ostensible reason for such an enlargement would be to "infuse new blood" into the court by appointing younger men to it. The more immediate reason, from President Roosevelt's standpoint, would be to insure a more liberal interpretation of the Constitution as it relates to certain far-reaching New Deal laws.

Oldest and most consistently liberal of the six justices is Mr. Justice Brandeis. Together with the three youngest members of the court—Roberts, Cardozo and Stone—he has frequently seen eye to eye with the objectives of the present administration.

The remaining four—McReynolds, Sutherland, Van Devanter and Butler—are generally conceded to be the court's consistently conservative bloc. In some cases, this bloc is viewed as not only conservative but also reactionary.