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*World Peace Through Justice*

“AS NEW YORK GOES, so goes the nation.”

These words are usually spoken not of New York but of Maine, which has always held its general elections earlier than the other states and is popularly supposed to indicate how the political tide is running.

This year New York was one of six states in which legislatures voted to submit major judicial article revisions to the voters for adoption. The other five will be voting in 1962, but New York had its referendum in the general election last month. Judicial reform won by an overwhelming margin of 5 to 1, and a fairly confident prediction can be made that by this time next year similar victories will have been won in Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and North Carolina.

It is often said that the voters are not interested in the judicial branch of the government, preferring to center their attention on more colorful issues like foreign policy, finance, welfare, or choosing among campaigning candidates. There is a measure of truth in this, but the most dangerous falsehoods are those that are half true.

The New York victory suggests that in states that need judicial reform and do not have it, the fault may lie more with a bench and bar that have failed to provide leadership than with voters who are hostile or indifferent.

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