

councilors who must approve the appointment responded favorably on Wednesday.

"It's like a new light — totally different from almost every other nomination coming to this table," said Councilor Ruth Griffin, R-Portsmouth.

Councilor Peter Spaulding, R-Hopkinton, said the nomination is a solid choice because of Duggan's expertise in constitutional law. "On the surface it's positive get-

heated divorce proceedings involving former Supreme Court Justice Stephen Thayer.

"He's a guy who's devoted to the unfortunates of society. He's one of the best lawyers around," Kamasinski said.

He said the public could have as much or more confidence in Duggan as others on the Supreme Court.

"I think this is a stroke of political genius by Gov. Shaheen," said

city Law Center. He immediately went to work as a staff attorney for the public defender service for the District of Columbia, where he was employed until 1972.

Duggan returned to New Hampshire in 1974 to run the state's public defender program. Duggan said Wednesday he is honored to be nominated and looks forward to pitching his case for appointment at the Dec. 18 public hearing.

Boy dies after being hit with puck

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Parents and teachers struggled Wednesday to find words to comfort the stunned classmates of a 12-year-old boy who died after being struck by a puck during ice hockey practice.

Quinn Connally of Cheshire, who would have been 13 next week, was struck in the back of the neck Mon-

day night while practicing with the Mass-Conn Braves Youth Hockey Association at the Springfield Civic Center.

"It was a freak accident," said Paul Chojnowski, the boy's uncle. He said the puck struck the boy just below the helmet in a half-inch gap between the helmet and the shoulder pads.

Connally, a seventh-grade student at

St. Stanislaus Kostka School in Adams, died about 18 hours later at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

An autopsy was scheduled, according to a spokeswoman for the state Medical Examiner's office.

Connally's team was a so-called "travel team," which includes different age groups and is not affiliated with any school.

Michaud will lead Legislature in Maine

members.

As the House geared up for business, Saxl pledged to work with Democratic majority floor leader Patrick Colwell of Gardiner and Republican minority floor leader Joseph Bruno of Raymond to promote "a tone of mutual respect and collegiality in this body."

Michaud similarly vowed to lead the Senate in a manner that will honor the directives of Maine's electorate.

"We will show the nation's elected officials how to lead when the people have spoken almost exactly right down the middle," he said in prepared remarks.

In the Senate — which is split among 17 Democrats, 17 Republicans and one independent — arithmetic alone dictates a need for compromise and, toward that end, Michaud's ascension to the podium was fixed to last just one year.

Under the terms of a tri-cornered power-sharing arrangement, the East Millinocket lawmaker will work in tandem with a Republican president pro tem, Richard Bennett of Norway, for the first half of the upcoming

two-year session.

In the second year, Michaud and Bennett will trade places, the former becoming the pro tem and the latter assuming the presidency.

"People are looking for comity, civility and consensus-building," Bennett said Wednesday in his prepared remarks. "We ought to give them that."

The swap, outlined in new Senate rules and a joint agreement on operations signed by six ranking Democratic and Republican senators and independent Jill Goldthwait of Bar Harbor, who brokered the deal, is part of a broad plan to divide Senate authority for a full two-year term.

