



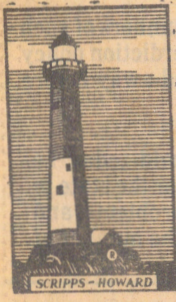
The Fourth is near

Page B-1

Viva El Paso!

A 'viva' for VIVA!

Page C-8



El Paso Herald-Post

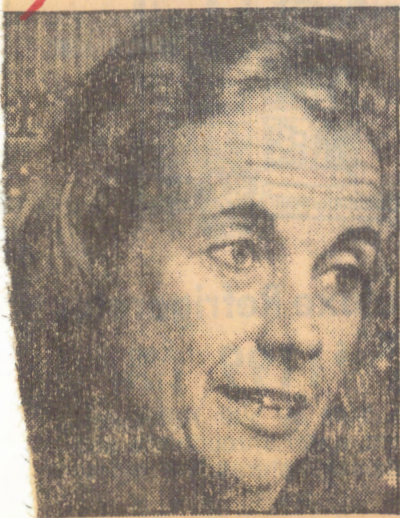
The Newspaper That Serves Its Readers

El Paso, Texas, Thursday, July 2, 1981

Home

Afternoon
stocks

price 25¢



Sandra O'Connor

High court frontrunner is native El Pasoan

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Judge Sandra D. O'Connor of the Arizona Court of Appeals, a native El Pasoan, is on the short list of potential nominees to fill the upcoming Supreme Court vacancy, it was learned today.

Administration sources said the choice would be made "very soon," possibly next week, of a new Supreme Court justice for the opening that will occur Friday with the resignation of Justice Potter Stewart.

MRS. O'CONNOR WAS born in El Paso. Her parents had a ranch that

crossed the New Mexico Arizona line in the area of Duncan, Ariz., and Lordsburg, N.M.

When it came time, Mrs. O'Connor's mother traveled to El Paso to have the baby and stayed with Mrs. O'Connor's grandmother, who lived in El Paso at the time.

David Gergen, White House director of communications, today ruled out any announcement of a new Supreme Court justice this weekend. He would not confirm that Judge O'Connor had been interviewed at the White House for the vacancy.

"I DON'T WANT TO speculate on names or the process" of selection, he said. "It's not a fruitful exercise."

The Washington Post, quoting well-placed administration officials, reported Ms. O'Connor has been interviewed for the high court opening and is being eyed as the front-runner to fill the vacancy.

Aides to Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., said today the senator immediately notified the White House about Judge O'Connor when Stewart announced his resignation.

"THE SENATOR HAS really

pushed for her and likes her a lot," said one aide. Another said that when Stewart made his announcement, "The senator jumped on the phone and said, 'I've got an excellent woman.'"

Ms. O'Connor, 51, is a Republican who finished third in the Stanford University law class in which Justice William Rehnquist finished first.

Administration sources said today Attorney General William French Smith had compiled a list of 20-25 names for the Supreme Court opening. But the sources said the list has been narrowed considerably.

See EL PASOAN, Page A-6

El Pasoan is court frontrunner

Continued from Page A-1

ing. But the sources said the list has been narrowed considerably.

FIRST LADY Nancy Reagan, asked today if she wanted her husband to nominate a woman for the post, said she wanted him to nominate the best person for the position.

Meantime, the New York Daily News reported that black Judge Lawrence W. Pierce of the U.S. District Court in Manhattan is among those under consideration for the high court post.

The newspaper also said Pierce could be in line for appointment to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to replace Judge Amalya Lynn Kearse, who also is black and could in turn be nominated to the Supreme Court.

THE POST SAID MS. O'Connor is believed to be the only potential high court nominee interviewed by the administration so far. "She hasn't been chosen yet, but she's close," the newspaper quoted one source as saying.

The Post said she has the backing of Sens. Goldwater and Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz.

Reagan expected soon to select High Court name

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan is expected soon to announce his nominee to fill the first vacancy on the nine-member Supreme Court since 1975.

The retirement of Associate Justice Potter Stewart was effective at the end of today and there are hints his successor could be named within a few days.

Among those on a narrow list of candidates is Sandra D. O'Connor, an Arizona appeals court judge. She would be the first woman to serve on the court.

Bill Jacquin, president of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, said she was interviewed at the White House on Wednesday.

The New York Times reported Saturday that Mrs. O'Connor is among "fewer than five" people in contention for the job.

The Washington Star said others on the so-called short list include former Solicitor General Robert H. Bork, Judge J. Clifford Wallace of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and Utah Supreme Court Justice Dallin Oaks.

Here, at a glance, is the lineup of Supreme Court justices, listed according to the president who nominated them; giving dates of their birth, of Senate action on their nomination, and when they took office.

Retiring Judge Potter Stewart:

Born Jan. 23, 1915, in Jackson, Mich., he was appointed during a Senate recess Oct. 14, 1958, taking office that day. He was then nominated by President Eisenhower Jan. 17, 1959; confirmed by the Senate May 5, 1959; and again took the oath of office May 15, 1959. Stewart retired effective Friday in letter to Reagan dated May 18. Reagan accepted Stewart's decision to retire when it was announced June 18.

Eight other High Court judges:

Nominated by Reagan — None
Nominated by Carter — None
Nominated by Ford

—Associate Justice John P. Stevens, born April 20, 1920, in Chicago; nominated by President Ford Dec. 1, 1975; confirmed by the Senate Dec. 17, 1975; took office Dec. 19, 1975.

Nominated by Nixon
—Associate Justice William H.



SANDRA O'CONNOR
High Court candidate

Rehnquist, born Oct. 1, 1924, in Milwaukee; nominated by President Nixon Oct. 21, 1971; confirmed by the Senate Dec. 10, 1971; took office Jan. 7, 1972.

—Associate Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., born Sept. 19, 1907, in Suffolk, Va.; nominated by President Nixon Oct. 21, 1971; confirmed by the Senate Dec. 6, 1971; took office Jan. 7, 1972.

—Associate Justice Harry A. Blackmun, born Nov. 12, 1908, in Nashville, Ill.; nominated by President Nixon April 14, 1970; confirmed by the Senate May 12, 1970; took office June 9, 1970.

—Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, born Sept. 17, 1907, in St. Paul, Minn.; nominated by President Nixon May 22, 1969; confirmed by the Senate June 9, 1969; took office June 23, 1969.

Nominated by Johnson
—Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall, born July 2, 1908, in Baltimore; nominated by President Johnson June 13, 1967; confirmed by the Senate Aug. 30, 1967; took office Oct. 2, 1967.

Nominated by Kennedy
—Associate Justice Byron R. White, born June 8, 1917, in Fort Collins, Colo.; nominated by President Kennedy April 3, 1962; confirmed by the Senate April 11, 1962; took office April 16, 1962.

Nominated by Eisenhower
—Associate Justice William J. Brennan Jr., born April 25, 1906, in Newark, N.J.; appointed during a Senate recess Oct. 15, 1956, taking office the next day; then nominated by President Eisenhower Jan. 14, 1957; confirmed by the Senate March 19, 1957; again took oath March 22, 1957.

16 San Francisco Chronicle

Thurs., July 2, 1981

Arizona Judge Heads Field for High Court

Washington

Sandra D. O'Connor, a prominent Arizona judge with Republican political ties, has emerged as a leading candidate for the Supreme Court vacancy that will be created tomorrow when Justice Potter Stewart retires.

Administration officials confirmed that O'Connor had been interviewed for the job.

She is believed to be the only potential nominee interviewed so far, and she is one of a few candidates, most of them women, whose name appears on a "short list" kept by top White House aides and Attorney General William French Smith.

"She hasn't been chosen yet, but she's close," one source said.

O'Connor, a judge of the Arizona Court of Appeals, has risen quickly through the state's political and professional circles, impressing colleagues with her intellect, demeanor, organizational ability and conservative views.

The 51-year-old jurist was third in the Stanford law school class in which Justice William Rehnquist finished first. She received one of the highest ratings of any judge evaluated in a 1980 state bar poll — 90 percent favorable.

In addition to her legal credentials, O'Connor has strong backing from Arizona's senators — Republican Barry Goldwater and Democrat Dennis DeConcini, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee — and from former House Republican leader John Rhodes.



AP Wirephoto

JUDGE SANDRA O'CONNOR
'What the president's looking for'

"She's what the president's looking for," DeConcini said. "She believes in the court interpreting the law, not making it."

This was the criterion President Reagan laid down when he announced Stewart's resignation on June 18. The justice had privately told the administration of his plans two months earlier, giving the White House and the Justice Department a head start on finding his successor.

Washington Post