

Woman Named for High Court

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secretary, who was with the judge in Phoenix today.

Saying she was "extremely happy and honored," the judge promised in a statement from Phoenix this afternoon that, if confirmed, she would do her "best to serve the court and this nation in a manner that will bring credit to the president, to my family and to all people of this great nation."

Attorney General William French Smith told reporters at the White House that the final decision was made yesterday. Reagan, who interviewed O'Connor personally July 1, said he would send a formal nomination to the Senate as soon as the FBI checks are completed.

O'Connor would take the place of Justice Potter Stewart, who retired last Friday. She would make \$88,700 a year and would take her seat for the first time publicly when the court starts a new term Oct. 5.

On the bench, she will sit next to a fellow Arizonan and a former law school classmate, Justice William H. Rehnquist.

Today, the judge was in her chambers in Phoenix, taking telephone calls and visiting with court aides, according to White House aide Rousel. He said she was in her car going to the courthouse when Reagan appeared on TV this morning to announce his choice.

Earlier in the day, O'Connor "hardly got to eat her breakfast" — scrambled eggs and orange juice — because the telephone rang so often at her home in Phoenix's Paradise Valley section, Rousel reported.

He said she did not know when she would come to Washington. The judge would not comment on any controversy that might surround her nomination, he said, "because we do not want to preempt the nomination process."

O'Connor's name had been actively promoted by Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., who four years ago urged her to leave the state bench to run for governor.

Goldwater reportedly talked to the president about her on June 18, the day Stewart announced he was retiring. The senator also reportedly visited the president at the White House last night, presumably to discuss the final choice.

Senate Judiciary Committee member Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., as well as former House Republican Minority Leader John J. Rhodes, R-Ariz., also had urged her appointment to the court.

But the White House had come under extreme pressure over the last weekend from anti-abortion groups to drop O'Connor as a potential nominee.

Since Friday, scores of letters and telegrams had poured in from various conservative groups denouncing O'Connor as being both for abortion and for the Equal Rights Amendment, according to a senior White House official.

Although Reagan had said a nominee to replace Stewart need not agree with him on every issue, many

Court Barber Draws the Line

John Shaw is the last remnant of the Supreme Court's 191-year history as a male-only institution.

Shaw is the court's barber. There is no beauty parlor and no beautician.

But, asked today if he could cut future Justice Sandra O'Connor's hair, he replied, "Yes, sir."

If she wants her hair done more elaborately, however, she will have to go elsewhere. "I don't do permanents," Shaw said.

The most important indicator of maleness at the court was put to an end at 3 p.m. last Nov. 14. That is when the court decided, after a secret discussion, to drop all references in opinions and other official orders to "Mr. Justice."

The public first became aware of the change on the following Monday, when the court issued an opinion in the case of Dennis v. Sparks, written by "Justice White."

The change reportedly was adopted in anticipation that, someday, a woman would be joining the brethren.

Although the court has a gymnasium, it has not been segregated by sex. Women employees of the court have been having an exercise class there, and they have access to the showers.

The bathrooms in the individual justices' chambers are configured for unisex use.

— Lyle Denniston

never emerged from the panel, and that she was a personal co-sponsor of a proposal to submit the question of ratifying ERA to the voters of Arizona for their advice.

That bill, which died in a committee, was viewed as a pro-ERA maneuver because the proposed constitutional amendment often fares better with voters at large than with their elected representatives.

Arizona's legislature has not ratified the ERA.

Paul Steiner, publicity director of the Planned Parenthood group in Phoenix, said yesterday that O'Connor "was not involved" in the abortion controversy in Arizona. He said she had left the legislature by the time abortion and public financing of abortions became major issues.

Steiner said it was his impression that O'Connor also was not an active supporter of the ERA.

John Kolbe, political editor of the Phoenix Gazette, said that "in my mind, she certainly doesn't have that image" of being pro-abortion or pro-ERA.

He said his study of O'Connor's record in the legislature showed she may have taken a position on those issues, "but just barely. She does not have a public image as being a drummer for ERA or abortion."

Kolbe said the bills she had introduced in the state senate showed she was primarily in favor of "good government" reform legislation. In his view, he said, her record was of a "moderate Republican, very thoughtful, very civic-minded."

O'Connor has been active for nearly 20 years in Republican politics and served from 1969-1974 in the Arizona Senate. In 1972 she was co-chairman of the Arizona Committee to Re-elect President Nixon. She is friendly with Goldwater and has met Reagan several times over the years.

She graduated in 1952 from the Stanford University Law School "with great distinction." She met her husband, John J. O'Connor III, there and served as a deputy district attorney in San Mateo County, Calif., in 1952 and 1953 while her husband finished law school.

The O'Connors then spent several years in West Germany where John O'Connor was serving in the Army's Judge Advocate General Corps. They returned to Arizona, where Mrs. O'Connor had grown up on a cattle ranch, in 1958, and both went into private practice. In 1972, she also was named "Woman of the Year" by the Advertising Club of Phoenix, an honor considered to be the highest civic accolade in that city.

Washington Star Staff Writers Lisa Myers and Roberta Hornig contributed to this report.



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Reagan Picks Woman For High Court

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nearly 20 years in Republican politics and served from 1969-1974 in the Arizona Senate, was co-chairman of the Arizona Committee to Re-elect President Nixon in 1972.

She is friendly with Goldwater and has met Reagan several times over the years, but did not campaign actively for Reagan in 1980 or 1976 because she had already assumed a seat on the Arizona Superior Court in 1975.

The Arizona Bar Association gave her a 90 percent "excellent" rating in 1980 for her performance on the appeals court since being appointed on Nov. 7, 1979 by Gov. Bruce Babbitt.

Goldwater said O'Connor's "talents go far beyond the legal and political fields. She has long been a leader in the Heard Museum, one of the leading anthropological centers in the United States. She is devoted to nature and to the culture of our people."

DeConcini once worked with O'Connor when she was an assistant state attorney general and urged Goldwater to recommend her to the President. DeConcini said she is "an outstanding lady, a Republican and she falls into all the categories the president has suggested. There is an Arizonan on the bench now [Justice William H. Rehnquist] so I doubt whether we'll have another one, but Sandra O'Connor is a really fine jurist, a good lawyer and a very conservative Republican besides."

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Yet her record on the volatile issues of abortion and ERA has generated a substantial opposition among "pro-life" and "pro-family" groups. Dr. Carolyn Gerster of Phoenix, former president of the National Right to Life Committee, said a study of O'Connor's record in the Arizona state senate showed that she is in favor of abortion. A package of material that Gerster claims spells out that record was sent to the White House last night.

Legislative records in Arizona indicated that O'Connor, as a senator, once voted against a football stadium bond issue that included a rider that would have barred free abortions at the University of Arizona Hospital.

That vote was in 1974. Gerster reported last night that there was another vote in 1974 in the state senate, on a bill to ask Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court decision in favor of the right to abortion.

Gerster said that, when the measure got to the floor of the state senate, it had to have a majority among Republican senators, who were in the majority in that chamber. The measure obtained only a 9-9 tie, according to Gerster. O'Connor was one of those voting against the proposal, she said.

Robert W. Tobin Jr., administrative assistant of the Ad Hoc Committee in Defense of Life, said the campaign against O'Connor also was based on her support of the ERA.

Records indicated that O'Connor was a member of a Senate committee that introduced a pro-ERA bill that never emerged from the panel, and that she was a personal co-sponsor of a proposal to submit the question of ratifying ERA to the voters of Arizona for their advice.

That bill, which died in a committee, was viewed as a pro-ERA maneuver because the proposed constitutional amendment often fares better with voters at large than with their elected representatives.

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Washington Star Staff Writer Lisa Myers contributed to this report.

Potential Court Nominee Opposed by Conservatives

By Lisa Myers and Lyle Denniston
Washington Star Staff Writers

The White House has come under extreme pressure from anti-abortion groups to drop Arizona Judge Sandra D. O'Connor as a potential Supreme Court nominee.

Since Friday, scores of letters and telegrams have poured in from various conservative groups denouncing O'Connor as being both for abortion and for the Equal Rights Amendment, according to a senior White House official.

"There's quite a controversy brewing," said a source. "We're hearing from a lot of people on this."

Although President Reagan has said a nominee to replace retired Justice Potter Stewart need not agree with him on every issue, many

of those opposing O'Connor are trying to hold Reagan to the letter of last year's Republican platform. The platform calls for appointment of judges who "respect traditional family values and the sanctity of human life."

In conservative code, that means judges who oppose the ERA and abortion.

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