



Supreme Court nominee Sandra O'Connor makes a point while testifying Wednesday at her confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill.

Judge O'Connor says her beliefs won't alter rulings

Senate committee hearing is told she personally opposes abortion

By Bruce N. Tomaso
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WASHINGTON — Sandra Day O'Connor of Phoenix, virtually assured of becoming the first woman justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, told the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday that she opposes abortion but would not let her personal views affect her ruling on any issue that comes before the high court.

Judge O'Connor also said in her first day of testimony before the 18-member committee that she believes in "judicial restraint" and views the role of the Supreme Court as one of interpreting the law rather than of legislating.

After Judge O'Connor concluded more than three hours of testimony, Committee Chairman Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., predicted that the former Arizona state senator will be endorsed by the committee and confirmed by the full Senate next week.

"I don't see any problem with her confirmation," he said. "I thought she made an excellent witness. She impressed me as being bright, alert, dedicated and possessed of a fine analytical mind."

Questioning of Judge O'Connor resumes this morning. The hearing on her nomination is scheduled to end Friday.

Thurmond, a conservative Southerner, began the questioning by focusing immediately on the only issue that has stirred any meaningful opposition to her appointment — her voting record on abortion-related issues as a state senator from 1969 to 1975.

When asked by Thurmond her opinion on abortion, Judge O'Connor prefaced her answer by saying, "The personal views and philosophy of a Supreme Court justice and, indeed, any judge should be set aside in resolving matters that come before the court." She said the court must judge cases solely on the facts before it.

"My own view in the area of abortion is that I am opposed to it as a means of birth control or otherwise," she said.

She was pressed by Thurmond to explain four votes on abortion issues that she cast as a state legislator.

Those votes have been interpreted by members of the anti-abortion movement as indicating she favors abortion.

She said she voted in 1970 for a bill to repeal Arizona's abortion statutes because she felt the penalties prescribed in the laws — making the performance of an abortion a felony subject to two to five years in prison — were too stringent and wide ranging.

"I felt some change was appropriate," she said. "Had a less sweeping bill been presented, I would have supported it."

She said she supported a 1973 bill to allow family

— Judge, A2

Evening viewing

- 6:00
- 10 12 News
- 5 Happy Days Again
- 8 Over Easy
- Skitch Henderson. (Closed-captioned.)
- 21 Gerald Derstein
- 23 Mundo Latino

- 6:30
- 5 M*A*S*H
- 2 MacNeil/Lehrer
- 10 Family Feud
- 17 World of People
- 15 Network News
- 21 Blackwood Brothers
- 23 Noticiero Nacional

- 7:00
- 5 Barney Miller
- Wojo may have to undergo the painful treatment for rabies.
- 3 O'Connor Hearing
- Coverage of the Senate Judiciary hearing on the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court. (5 hrs.)
- 10 Magnum P.I.
- Magnum's new client asks him to protect her horse. (R)
- 12 ASU Pre-Season Report
- A look at Arizona State and other Pac-10 football teams.
- 15 Pay TV
- (7 hrs.)
- 21 Our Jewish Roots
- 23 Hogar que yo Robe

- 7:30
- 5 Bob Newhart
- Bob invites an old school chum who's in town on a one-day sales trip to spend the night — but the overnight stay turns into a week.
- 21 Sunshine
- 23 Rosa de Lejos

- 8:00
- 5 Rockford Files
- Conclusion. Rockford plays a wealthy oil magnate in the con game he and Richie Brockelman have concocted.
- 10 Nurse
- Mary is upset when suggestive

- 8:30
- 23 Mis Huespedes
- 8:45
- 3 America at Play
- Mel Tillis.
- 9:00
- 5 Hollywood Squares



Senate confirmation hearings on U.S. Supreme Court nominee Sandra O'Connor can be seen tonight at 7 p.m. on Channel 8.

- gifts start arriving at her apartment. (R)
- 12 Movie
- "Lady of the House" (1978, drama) Dyan Cannon, Armand Assante, Zohra Lampert, Susan Tyrell, Melvin Belli. Sally Stanford, a San Francisco madam of the '30s, rises to power and respectability. (2 hrs.)
- 21 Praise!
- (3 hrs.)
- 8:15
- 3 Best of the West
- A couple move west to lead the simple life.
- ADV
- 3 PREMIERE!
- * "BEST OF THE WEST"
- BRAND NEW COMEDY!

- 10 Knots Landing
- Armed thieves break into the Ewing home and take Val, Karen, Ginger and Laura as hostages. (R)
- 9:30
- 5 News
- 23 Idolo
- 9:45
- 3 News
- 10:00
- 10 12 News
- 5 Odd Couple
- Felix and Oscar's bowling team has a shot at the championship for the first time in five years.
- 23 Noche a Noche
- 10:15
- 3 ABC News
- 10:30
- 5 Prisoner: Cell Block H
- 10 U.S. Open Tennis
- Highlights of today's games.
- ADV
- 10 US Open Tennis Update
- * Highlights Today's Action
- 12 Tonight
- Maureen Murphy joins host Johnny Carson.
- 23 Noticiero

- 10:40
- 23 24 Horas
- 10:45
- 3 Charlie's Angels
- The Angels join a professional women's football team to find out who's trying to knock out the women's league. (1 hr., 10 mins.)
- 11:00
- 5 Movie
- ***"Darling Lili" (1970, spoof) Julie Andrews, Rock Hudson, Jeremy Kemp, Lance Percival. A German spy poses as an entertainer during World War I and falls in love with a squadron commander. (2 hrs., 30 mins.)
- 10 The Jeffersons
- 21 News
- 11:15
- 21 Religious
- 11:30
- 10 Madigan
- 12 Morecambe & Wise
- 21 Faith for Today
- 11:55
- 3 The Untouchables
- 12:00
- 12 Tomorrow
- (1 hr., 30 mins.)
- 21 No. Phoenix Baptist
- 12:55
- 3 News
- 1:00
- 21 Roger
- (Followed by Praise, Dwight Thompson and Jimmy Swagart.)
- 1:15
- 10 NewsNight
- (1 hr., 25 mins.)
- 5 News
- 2:40
- 10 Medical Center
- 3:40
- 10 Wildlife Adventure
- 4:10
- 10 News
- 4:40
- 10 Human Dimension

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