

O'Connor wins unanimous approval

**CONGRADULATIONS
SANDRA OCONNOR
YOU ARE NOW A
MINORITY**

This sign in front of Anywhere Auto Parts at Mesa Drive and Baseline Road gives one viewpoint on O'Connor's new post.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate voted unanimously Monday to confirm Sandra Day O'Connor as the nation's first woman justice of the Supreme Court in a vote hailed as a turning point in U.S. political history. The vote was 99-0. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., was the only absentee.

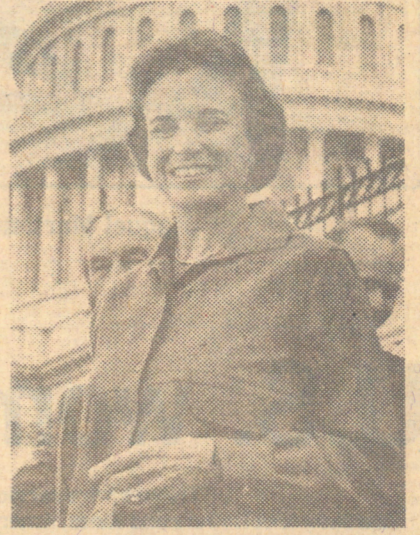
Cautioned against any demonstration, spectators thronging the Senate gallery kept silent during the 20-minute roll call and the announcement of the outcome.

But outside the Capitol, a huge crowd greeted Mrs. O'Connor with cheers as she arrived with Attorney General William French Smith and posed for pictures with Vice President George Bush and Senate leaders.

"I'm absolutely overjoyed with the expression of support from the Senate and my hope is that 10 years from now, after I've been across the street at work for awhile, they will feel glad they gave me the wonderful vote they did today," Mrs. O'Connor said. "I'll certainly work hard to make that happen."

President Reagan promptly issued a statement saying, "This is truly a happy and historic day for America," and expressing gratitude for the unanimous vote.

He called Mrs. O'Connor "a very warm and brilliant woman" and said he is sure "the court and the nation will benefit both from her lifetime of work, service and experience in the legal profession, and from her solid grasp of our Constitution, which she reveres." Mrs. O'Connor is tentatively scheduled to be sworn in Friday and will be on the bench when the high court opens its 1981-82 term Oct. 5.



SANDRA O'CONNOR

After a one-sided bipartisan debate that amounted to little more than a series of laudatory speeches favoring the Arizona appeals court judge's nomination, Republican leader Howard Baker declared it "a rare historic day that graces all branches of government."

"We have finally reached a point in the history of the United States where gender is not a consideration," said Democratic leader Robert Byrd.

Mrs. O'Connor, 51, hailed by both parties as a legal scholar and former state senate Republican leader with a judicial temperament, is to be sworn in at the Supreme Court Friday.

The abortion issue, which flared up as soon as Reagan announced her nomination and which dominated her confirmation hearings in the Senate Page A5: Vote

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Vote

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Judiciary Committee, also cast its shadow over the debate.

However, it did so with this twist: Democrats, who had promptly acclaimed Reagan's choice of Mrs. O'Connor, denounced Republican abortion foes for using "single issue" politics and for hesitating before endorsing her themselves.

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., initially one of Mrs. O'Connor's most serious challengers, said he would take President Reagan's word that she opposes abortion. But he defended those who sought to make it a major issue.

Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said they differ with Mrs. O'Connor on many issues but readily endorsed her because of her qualifications of experience, intelligence and judicial temperament.

"I hope that today there won't be a single vote cast against her confirmation," Metzenbaum said. "It will indicate the

Senate did not yield to pressures of the New Right."

"Single issue politics has no place in the solemn responsibility of the Senate to advise and consent to appointments to the Supreme Court or any other federal court," Kennedy said.

The debate took place in a nearly empty chamber with visitors' galleries seldom half full. It was interspersed with token quorum calls made when no senator was on hand to make a speech.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., who chaired the hearings on Mrs. O'Connor's confirmation, took advantage of a lull to bring to the press gallery news that doubtful Republicans had fallen into line.

Thurmond gave the first public word that Sen. Jeremiah Denton, R-Ala., who voted "present" instead of "yes" on the committee's confirmation roll call, would now vote in her

favor. Denton arrived too late to take part in the lopsided debate.

In Thurmond's view, his committee's 17-0 vote for Mrs. O'Connor was "a highly favorable recommendation," and demonstrated she is "extraordinarily qualified." He said he found her "honest, uncorruptible, fair" and "a person of compassion."

Denton, protesting Mrs. O'Connor's refusal to comment on the Supreme Court's 1973 decision that abortions are constitutional, sent Reagan word he wanted more reassurance. It was learned Reagan telephoned Denton last Thursday.

During the weekend, Denton said he also received a letter from Mrs. O'Connor that provided "a little more food for thought" on her nomination.

Asked about this letter, Denton said, "She's changing in that direction." He would not elaborate.

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Sandra Day O'Connor waves as she arrives at U.S. Capitol after nomination to the Supreme Court had been confirmed by the Senate. From left are Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz.; Attorney General William French Smith; O'Connor and Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C. Thurmond chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee. (AP Laserphoto)

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Senate Confirms Sandra O'Connor Justice Nomination

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sandra Day O'Connor, confirmed by a unanimous Senate as the first woman justice on the Supreme Court, promises to be "very busy, very fast" after she is sworn in later this week.

There is no clear indication, however, how she will vote on social and constitutional issues that come before the court.

The 51-year-old Arizona appeals judge won a 99-0 endorsement in the Senate on Monday as the 102nd justice in the 191-year history of the nation's highest court. She will be youngest of the nine members.

Mrs. O'Connor will be sworn in for her lifetime position in ceremonies Friday afternoon at the Supreme Court building. But because the ceremony will be conducted in the courtroom itself, the recording for posterity will be limited.

"As is the court practice, there will be no TV, no photographs and no tape recordings," court spokesman Barrett McGurn today said in a printed statement released today.

Reporters and artists will be admitted to the ceremony, as they are for all court sessions. There will be no public admission, however, except by invitation.

Two "picture opportunities" are scheduled shortly after the 15-minute ceremony.

McGurn said official court

photographers would be on hand but added, "I know of no plan to have any photograph taken in the courtroom (during the ceremony)."

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger will administer Mrs. O'Connor's oath of office, and White House officials said President Reagan may attend the Friday ceremony.

"My hope is that 10 years from now, after I've been across the street and worked for a while, that they'll all feel glad for the wonderful vote they gave me today," a smiling Mrs. O'Connor said at an appearance on the Capitol steps with Vice President George Bush and Senate leaders.

Once installed on the court, which opens its 1981-82 term Oct. 5, "I'm going to get very busy, very fast," Mrs. O'Connor said.

Reagan hailed a "happy and historic day" and said in a statement that Mrs. O'Connor's confirmation "symbolizes the richness of opportunity that still abides in America — opportunity that permits persons of any sex, age or race, from every section and walk of life, to aspire and achieve in a manner never before even dreamed about in human history."

The vote, following four hours of laudatory speeches by conservatives and liberals alike, was a victory for Reagan as well as Mrs. O'Connor.