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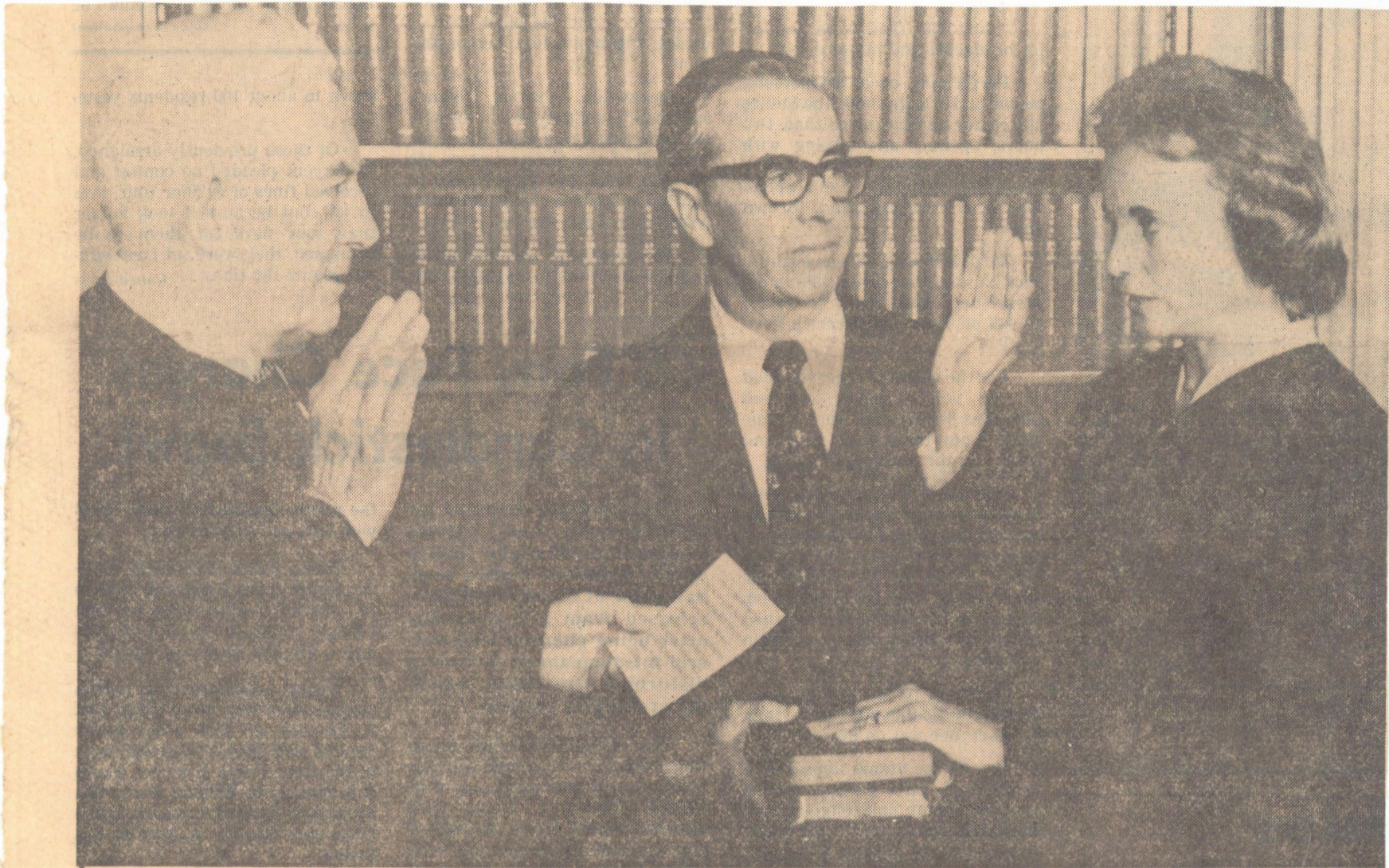
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O'Connor Makes It Legal

U.S. Chief Justice Warren Burger (left) swore in Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman justice of the Supreme Court. O'Connor's husband, John, held two family Bibles as she took the oath of office. The story is on Page 7.

San Francisco Chronicle 9-26-81

O'Connor Is Now a U.S. Justice

Washington

Sandra Day O'Connor took her seat on the U.S. Supreme Court yesterday. She became the 102nd justice and first woman to serve on the high court.

President Reagan, who fulfilled a campaign promise to name a woman to the court by nominating the 51-year-old Arizona judge, attended the brief ceremony.

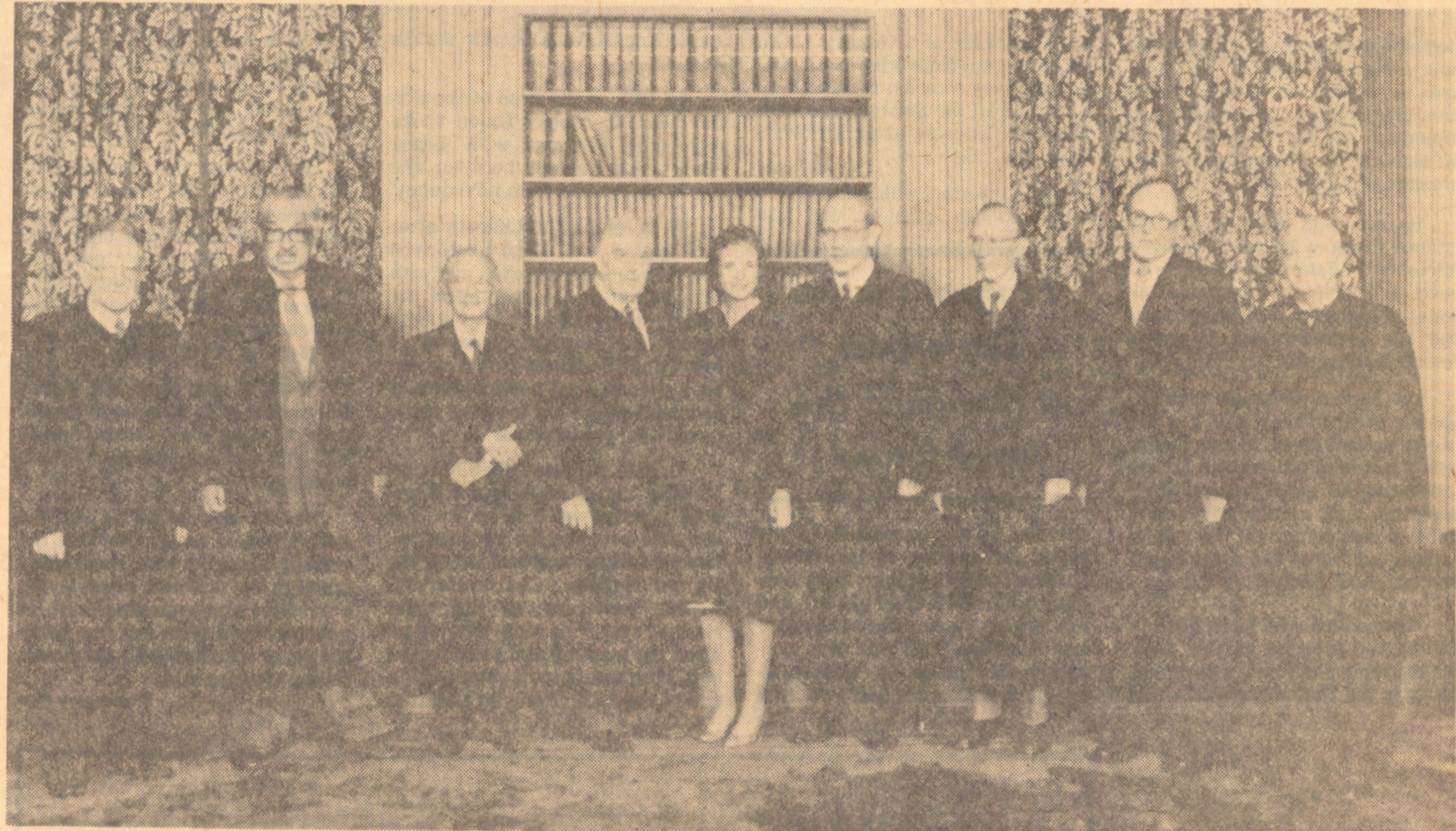
It was the first time a president had visited the Supreme Court building since President Ford attended Associate Justice John Paul Stevens' swearing-in in 1975.

Reagan and O'Connor entered the courtroom simultaneously, but from opposite sides, a few minutes past 2 p.m. O'Connor was escorted to a ceremonial chair, in the well of the courtroom below the bench, which was used in the court's early years by Chief Justice John Marshall. The eight other court members took their seats on the bench moments later.

The investiture ceremony lasted barely 10 minutes. The courtroom was crowded well beyond its 400-seat capacity, with O'Connor's family and friends and government officials, including a number of senators. The Senate confirmed O'Connor on September 22 by a vote of 99 to 0.

Associate Justice Potter Stewart, whose retirement in July paved the way for yesterday's event, watched from a seat at the side of the courtroom.

Attorney General William French Smith presented to the court the official document, signed by Reagan, commissioning O'Connor as an associate justice. Alexander L. Stevas, clerk of the Supreme Court, read the document aloud. Chief Justice Warren Burger then



Sandra O'Connor posed with the other justices of the Supreme Court: (from the left) Harry Blackmun, Thurgood Marshall, William Brennan, Chief Justice Warren Burger, Byron White, Lewis Powell, William Rehnquist and John Paul Stevens

called O'Connor up to the bench.

Burger administered the oath of office, which is identical to that taken by all federal officials. Earlier, in the privacy of the justices' conference room, O'Connor had taken the separate oath that is administered to federal judges, in which the judge swears to "administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich."

Charles Cornelison, the court's chief deputy marshal, next helped O'Connor put on the judicial robe she brought with her from the Arizona Court of Appeals.

Then the woman who graduated near the top of her Stanford Law School class 29 years ago took her place on the bench, the seat at the far end reserved for the most junior justice.

Burger wished her a "very long

life and a long and happy career in our common calling."

The ceremony over, O'Connor posed for pictures in a sunfilled inner courtyard of the Supreme Court building. She was joined by the president and first lady Nancy Reagan; the chief justice and his wife, Elvira; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Day; her husband, John; and their three sons.

Supreme Court employees who

had not been able to get seats in the courtroom, waved from the windows, and the new justice waved back.

There had been a similar "photo opportunity" on the court steps at noon. Then O'Connor was escorted by the chief justice, who remarked to waiting photographers: "You've never seen me with a better-looking justice, have you?"

New York Times