

People and Events Of the World and Nation

O'Connor Showing At Senate Hearing Boosts Confirmation

A strong performance on the witness stand, coupled with careful orchestration by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Strom Thurmond, virtually assured confirmation of Arizona Judge Sandra Day O'Connor to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Although Sen. Thurmond honored several anti-O'Connor witness requests to testify, he scheduled them on the last of three days of hearings in Washington.

As expected, committee members treated the 51-year-old Arizona Court of Appeals judge politely, as virtually to a man they applauded President Reagan's historic appointment of the first woman to the nation's high court.

Yet members did spend two days grilling Judge O'Connor on her legal and oral views on a wide array of public issues, often succumbing to the temptation to state their own views before national television.

Asked for her views on abortion by Sen. Thurmond, she replied that while the personal views of potential Supreme Court justices ought to be set aside when deciding a particular case, she added, "I am opposed to it (abortion) as a form of birth control." She then appeared to take much of the starch out of anti-abortion opposition by conceding that on one of the Arizona votes, a 1970 proposal she supported to repeal the state's abortion statute, she would today be opposed.

She also defended a 1973 vote making contraceptive devices more readily available to youngsters without parental consent by saying she viewed the issue as contraception, not abortion.

She said she voted in 1974 against a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to pass a constitutional amendment banning abortion because she was not convinced the measure had been given proper thought.

Another 1974 vote against a rider forbidding abortions in state university hospitals was cast because it was not relevant to the larger bill, the witness said. She said the state constitution also disallowed such non-germane amendments.

AI Asks Reaction To Reported Abuses in Chile

Eight years after the coup which overthrew Chile's Allende government, citizens suspected of non-violent opposition to the present regime still risk sudden death, torture, imprisonment or banishment to remote areas, Amnesty International (AI) reported last week.

On the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 1973, coup, AI called for public appeals to the Chilean authorities to release prisoners held because of their opinions, to halt torture and killings by the security forces and to account for the estimated 1,500 people who have "disappeared" from 1973 to 1977.

AI said the reports it receives from Chile showed that there has been changes in the ways human rights and international standards are violated — there is no longer the epidemic of "disappearances" of earlier years but there have been reports over the past year of people killed after arrest or abduction.

Humiliation, threats and combinations of physical and psychological torture are used to "soften up" prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Torture still appears to be a systematic part of official policy, according to the international organization.



Sculpture of Pope

At work in his studio, Mexican sculptor Ernesto Eduardo Tamaria puts the finishing touches on a 19-foot-high likeness of Pope John Paul II. Cast in bronze, the statue will be unveiled in Mexico City on Dec. 12, the 450th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. (RNS)

AI reported that about 2,700 persons were arrested for political reasons in 1973 and a new constitution as of March 11, 1981, gives the authorities wide powers to limit individual freedom.

CBN to Accept Commercials, Diversify Shows

Both an expanded program lineup and a bid for expanded advertising dollars to finance production of new shows mark departures for the Christian Broadcasting Network this fall.

In a move the CBN hopes will send the Gospel message more effectively "into the marketplace," the network has moved into the commercial marketplace. "The enormous cost of television today makes it necessary that we accept advertising in order to compete in the marketplace," Tom Rogeberg, network director, said.

Previously, CBN had been financed by donations to the successful 700 Club, hosted by Pat Robertson, the network president. He stated his intention in the past to expand the format of the network's satellite branch to include a wider variety of programs, some of which would depart from exclusively Christian content and subject matter. — Religious News Service.

Vatican Theme For World Day: 'Peace, Gift of God'

The theme chosen by Pope John Paul II for the 1982 World Day of Peace involves a strong attack on countries that practice religious oppression, the Vatican has announced.

"Peace, a Gift of God" is the theme for the 14th annual observance of the peace day, Jan. 1, 1981.

"With regard to the advancement of peace among nations," a Vatican press statement said, "the theme gives the opportunity to compare the position of those countries that in theory or in practice deny religious freedom with the position of those that see in that freedom the primary condition for effective action in favor of true peace."

The Roman Catholic Church's first world peace day was introduced by Pope Paul VI in 1968.

'Youth Day' Scholarships Available

The newly formed Diocesan Youth Ministry Commission has set aside \$500 for scholarships for parish youths to cover registration fees at the Catholic Youth Organization's Youth Day, Oct. 4, at Monroe Community College.

According to Joyce M. Strazzabosco, executive director of the CYO, Youth Day is an interfaith gathering of youth and adults, planned by representatives from the

Catholic, Protestant and Jewish communities. The day is being coordinated by Anne Wegman of the CYO. Parish youths

wishing to obtain a scholarship to the day are asked to contact Ms. Wegman at 50 Chestnut St. Rochester, N.Y. 14604; (716) 454-2030.

Reflection Evening Scheduled

The Sisters of Mercy Vocation Team will sponsor an evening of prayer and reflection from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 1, at the Andrew Center, 81 Barberry Ter.

Women interested in exploring the vowed life should contact Sister Sheila Stevenson, vocation director, at 244-2175.

The vocation team has also scheduled a weekend retreat as part of its Faith Sharing Program for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6-7, at High Acres, Geneva.

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