

National

Court nominee opposes abortion

Committee questions O'Connor

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Sandra O'Connor, the Arizona state appeals judge President Reagan has chosen to become the first woman Supreme Court Justice, reiterated her opposition to abortion Tuesday.

monstrated outside the Senate office building, O'Connor made a historic appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee that will pass on her qualifications. O'Connor faced criticism that her votes as a member of the Arizona State Senate favored abortion. "My own view in the area of

abortion is that I am opposed to it as a matter of birth control or otherwise," she said in a firm voice. "The subject of abortion is a valid one in my view for legislative action subject to any constitutional restraints or limitations." O'Connor said that as a Supreme court justice she would base

her decisions on the facts and the law rather than her personal leanings.

Answering Chairman Strom Thurmond, O'Connor said she opposed urging Congress to launch an anti-abortion constitutional amendment in 1974 because she thought the subject needed more thoughtful consideration.

O'Connor testified she opposed another anti-abortion bill while Arizona Senate majority leader because it had been inappropriately attached as a rider to an en-

tirely different bill by the Arizona House.

O'Connor said she supported a 1973 bill to widen public knowledge of contraceptive practices.

Earlier in her prepared statement, O'Connor said she could not say in advance the position she might take on controversial social issues.

"I do not believe that, as a nominee, I can tell you how I might vote on a particular issue which may come before the court," she said.

Fatigue among teens may be danger signal

United Press International
WASHINGTON — If a teenager says he is often fatigued, a Florida doctor says it's always a signal that something is wrong and should be taken seriously.

Dr. Arnold Melnick said the fatigue may only be caused by inadequate rest and sleep or it may be the result of a disease or drug use. Or there may be a psychological cause such as a conflict with parents or just plain boredom.

Melnick, professor of pediatrics at the Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in North Miami Beach, said in a report in the medical magazine Consultant that if a teenager comes to a doctor complaining he is tired all the time, the doctor is being sent two messages.

"First, 'I think there is something wrong with me, tell me what it is.' Second, 'I'm scared about something, please help me.'"

"We have to pay attention to these hidden messages," Melnick wrote.

He said fatigue caused by inadequate rest, tension, dieting, pregnancy, too little or too much activity is common among adolescents.

"Even though teenagers think they get enough rest, they frequently overextend themselves,"

he said. "They stay awake to 2 a.m. watching television and then have to get up early for school the next day. Fatigue is a natural consequence."

Melnick said intense or prolonged stress or tension will also cause fatigue. And so will what he calls "stringent fad dieting." Fatigue can be the first indication to an adult that a teenager is pregnant.

Melnick listed 30 diseases that can cause fatigue. He said anemia is probably the most often considered cause of teenage fatigue, but he said youngsters can compensate for mild anemia and the red blood cell count has to be fairly low before symptoms can develop.

Another overdiagnosed condition, he said, is hypothyroidism, a disorder caused by the body's insufficient production of thyroid hormone.

Melnick said teenagers frequently take medications, whether prescribed or not. He said the fatigue they can cause often goes unrecognized. He cited tetracyclines for acne and antihistamines for allergies as examples of drugs which can cause fatigue.

Alcohol, sedatives, tranquilizers, nicotine, insulin, and small overdoses of vitamins A and D also were among the drugs listed as

capable of causing fatigue.

Melnick said doctors should suspect a psychologic cause of fatigue if the parent is doing the complaining.

"If a young man is fatigued at home or in school and is active outside, or if a young lady is always tired at home but can manage to go out and dance half the night, suspect psychologic fatigue."

"If the teenager is too tired when it comes to meeting parental requests, such as tidying up, clearing the table, or doing the dishes, but moves quickly for a basketball game or going out with the girls, you have to be suspicious."

Melnick said an adolescent who has psychologic fatigue can take a nap and get up just as tired as when he lay down. But if the problem is caused by an illness, the youngster will feel somewhat improved after a rest.

He said conflict with parents is often a cause of psychologic fatigue. He said there probably is no adolescent in the United States who doesn't feel hassled by his parents, but he said some adolescents do get hassled unduly.

Other causes of psychologic fatigue, he said, can be peer group problems, sex problems, and boredom.

U.S. government spent \$148,600 on Hinckley

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The federal government spent \$148,600 taking care of John W. Hinckley Jr. at a federal institution at Butner, N.C., where he was held after his arrest on charges of shooting President Reagan, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Aun said the total expenses included \$5,700 to house a regular prisoner and \$142,900 provided special services for Hinckley.

In May, Hinckley was placed under 24-hour guard at Butner after he took an overdose of headache pills in an apparent suicide attempt.

He was held in isolation at the facility until his transfer last month to the Marine Base at Quantico, Va. No figures are immediately available on the cost of keeping Hinckley at the Marine base Aun said.

Hinckley was indicted earlier this month on charges he tried to kill Reagan and wounded White House Press Secretary James Brady and two law enforcement officials at a Washington hotel on March 30.

A federal judge gave defense psychiatrists until Sept. 28 to complete their evaluation of him. Defense lawyers have said they do not know whether they will raise an insanity defense in the case of the 26-year-old son of a Colorado oilman.

No date has been set for the trial.

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