



Safer form of racing

Richard Khouw, a freshman mechanical engineering major from Dallas, races his radio-controlled car down the fourth floor of Dunn Hall while Rodney Walther, a junior computer science major from Houston, watches the car's progress down the hall.

High court justice dies after controversial career

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Abe Fortas, the first Supreme Court justice to resign in the midst of scandal and whose departure began a trend away from the liberal policies of the Warren Court, died Monday night of an apparent heart attack. He was 71.

Officials at Georgetown University Hospital said Fortas was admitted to the hospital emergency room at 8:40 p.m.

"Justice Fortas, we think, suffered a cardiac arrest sometime between 9:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. last night (Monday)," Inga Seckinger, Fortas' secretary, said. "He was taken to Georgetown University Hospital and was pronounced dead on arrival."

A hospital spokesman said an autopsy would determine the exact cause of death.

Funeral arrangements were pending, Seckinger said. Fortas is survived by his wife, Caroline Agger Fortas and other relatives in Tennessee and Africa. There are no children.

Fortas, who resigned under fire in 1969, made his first official return to the Supreme Court on March 22, exactly two weeks before his death, for arguments in a case involving a legislative vacancy in Puerto Rico.

During his early days at the Interior Department, Fortas forged close ties to Puerto Rico, and the territorial government became one of the first big clients to sign on with Arnold, Fortas & Porter after its creation.

A one-time Yale law professor, he founded the prestigious Washington law firm, and built a

reputation as one of the capital's leading attorneys, with a lifestyle that belied his roots as the son of poor Orthodox Jews who immi-

On the high court, Abe Fortas helped continue the liberal tradition pioneered under Chief Justice Earl Warren — coming down on the sides of civil rights and civil liberties and expanding the constitutional rights of children.

grated from England and settled in Memphis, Tenn. Fortas, who had been one of Lyndon Johnson's closest advisers, was nominated to the Supreme Court in 1965. Their friendship began in 1948, when Fortas succeeded in having Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black intervene on Johnson's behalf in a dispute in the Texas senatorial primary.

On the high court, Fortas helped continue the liberal tradition pioneered under Chief Justice Earl Warren — coming down on the sides of civil rights and civil liberties and expanding the constitutional rights of children.

At the same time, Fortas parted company with his liberal colleagues on several notable occasions, including cases in which they ruled against big business mergers and sought broader limits than he preferred on press criticism of public figures.

Fortas earned respect for his sharp legal mind. But after less

than three years on the bench, he was touched by scandal — opposition to his liberal court opinions and his close relationship with Johnson and questions about his acceptance of a \$15,000 law school lecture fee.

But it was conservative opposition to the "activist" Warren Court — and Fortas' role in it — that prompted the Senate to block his nomination in 1968 as chief justice, casting a cloud that hung over Fortas through the end of his sometimes stormy tenure on the court.

Months later, new questions surfaced — this time about Fortas' ties to imprisoned financier Louis Wolfson — that set the stage for a move in Congress that appeared headed for impeachment proceedings.

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NLRB declares charge unfounded

United Press International
HOUSTON — The National Labor Relations Board has asked two construction firms to withdraw complaints against the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, which has been charged with blocking reconstruction at a Texaco Inc. refinery.

The NLRB said Monday the complaint by Fluor Construction Co. and the St. Louis-based Brooks Construction Co. against the OCAW was unfounded.

The board said it found evidence of construction workers being used to perform jobs usually performed by OCAW members.

The companies said union members were blocking construction of a \$180 million catalytic reforming unit at Texaco's Port Arthur facility, which will be used to make unleaded gasoline.

Members of the union have been on strike at Texaco since the union's contract expired Jan. 8. About 3,500 union members are participating in the strike, plus another 1,000 buildings and trades union members are refusing to cross picket lines.

Larry Stefflen, OCAW spokesman said the NLRB ruling gave the union a moral victory in its three-month-long strike.

Stefflen said Texaco closed down all gates into the plant except one when the strike began. "We couldn't tell who was a construction worker and who was a company employee. They (construction workers) were doing things like replacing pipe and concrete work."

"Those contracts are not under Fluor's jurisdiction. That's work we normally perform," Stefflen said.

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