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Senate confirms Rehnquist, 65-33

WASHINGTON (AP) — The debate over William H. Rehnquist's integrity and commitment to the rights, confirmed him as the nation's 16th chief justice Wednesday.

By a 65-33 vote, the Senate approved President Reagan's elevation of Rehnquist, the Supreme Court's most politically conservative member for nearly 15 years. He replaces Chief Justice Warren E. Burger.

The Senate then immediately confirmed, by a 98-0 vote, the nomination of Antonin Scalia, a federal appeals court judge, to fill the Supreme Court vacancy created by Burger's departure.

Only two of the Senate's 53 Republicans, Lowell Weicker of Connecticut and Charles Mathias of

Maryland, voted against the Rehnquist nomination.

Sixteen of the Senate's 47 Democrats voted for the nomination.

Sens. Jake Garn, R-Utah, and Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., did not participate in either vote.

Earlier, Republicans were successful in curtailing the debate in a 68-31 procedural vote, paving the way to the final vote hours later.

Rehnquist, in a brief encounter with reporters Wednesday evening, was asked if he thought the advise-and-consent process had been arduous. "From my point of view, it has," he replied.

As chief justice, Rehnquist would serve as the nation's top judge and the "first among equals" on the Supreme Court.

As the speech-making wound down Wednesday, Sen. Charles Ma-

thias of Maryland became the second Republican to announce his opposition to Rehnquist.

"I can no longer cast my vote in favor of his confirmation," said Mathias, who previously supported the nomination. "I am sufficiently troubled by the real possibility that he acted improperly in failing to (disqualify) himself" in a 1972 Supreme Court decision upholding a domestic wiretapping program Rehnquist helped establish as a government lawyer.

Mathias' vote bolstered Democratic claims that opposition to Rehnquist was not based purely on partisan politics.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, previously had rebutted Republican claims that opponents of Rehnquist's nomination were trying to remake the 1984 presidential elec-

tions. He noted that the Senate approved Reagan's only other Supreme Court nomination, that of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981, by a 99-0 vote.

Despite heated hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Rehnquist's nomination was sent on to the Senate last month by a 13-5 vote of the panel.

Democrats attacked him as insensitive toward minorities and women and contended that he has a too-narrow view of individual rights.

They disclosed that the deed of Rehnquist's summer home in Greensboro, Vt., contains a restrictive covenant barring its sale to Jews.

Rehnquist said he had been told about the legally unenforceable restriction by his Vermont lawyer when he bought the home in 1974, but had forgotten about it. He is tak-

ing legal action to have the restriction deleted.

Also disclosed at the hearings was the fact that as a lawyer in Phoenix, Ariz., two decades ago, Rehnquist owned a home with a deed bearing a similar clause barring its sale to non-whites. He said he had not known about it.

Rehnquist's brother-in-law, Harold D. Cornell of San Diego, says Rehnquist, unethically, failed to tell him about the terms of a \$25,000 family trust. Rehnquist has refused to comment on the allegations.

Five people swore under oath that Rehnquist played an active role in harassing and intimidating black and Hispanic voters as a Republican Party official in Phoenix in the early 1960s. As he had during his 1971 confirmation hearings, Rehnquist

swore under oath he could remember no such incidents.

As they had in 1971, Rehnquist's opponents said a 1952 memorandum he wrote as a Supreme Court law clerk supporting racial segregation reflected his own view. Rehnquist again testified that the memo did not represent his personal beliefs.

A 1970 memo was made public in which Rehnquist, then a Justice Department lawyer, responded to a Nixon White House request and advocated a constitutional amendment to allow continued racial segregation of school districts through neighborhood school plans.

Another unearthed memo written by Rehnquist as a government lawyer opposed the Equal Rights Amendment.

U.S. orders expulsion of Soviet diplomats

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration ordered the expulsion of 25 United Nations-based Soviet diplomats Wednesday, but said the action was unrelated to the spy charges Moscow has filed against American journalist Nicholas Daniloff.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said the expulsion was a follow-up to a U.S. decision announced six months ago, to force cutbacks in the Soviets' United Nations presence.

The administration has maintained that the Soviet staff at the United Nations is disproportionately large and engages in spy activities.

For its part, the Soviets have insisted that the required reductions violate the obligations the United States has undertaken as host country for the United Nations.

The names of the personnel affected by the order were turned over to Soviet officials by the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters. The 25 were given until Oct. 1 to leave the country.

The Soviet U.N. Mission immediately signaled that it will resist the order.

"I think there will be a protest," said Valentin G. Karymov, a senior counselor at the Soviet mission, told a reporter by telephone. The diplomat, however, said the U.S. note first

would be studied by Moscow before a formal response is made.

An informed source who does not work for the government, but who specializes in intelligence matters, said it was understood that most if not all of the 25 Soviets worked for the two principal Soviet intelligence agencies, the KGB and the GRU. The source insisted on anonymity.

Roy Godson, professor of government at Georgetown University, called the expulsion "an unprecedented and historic step in Soviet-American relations."

"For the first time ever, the United States has dealt the Soviet espionage apparatus in the United States, particularly in New York, a devastating blow," Godson said. "It will take Moscow years to recover."

Last March, the Reagan administration announced that the Soviets

would be required to reduce their U.N. staff by from 275 to 170 over a two-year period in increments of roughly 25 every six months.

The Soviet delegation is more than twice the size of the next largest delegation.

Of the 105 to be sent home, a small number would be attached to the staffs of two Soviet republics, Ukraine and Byelorussia. All 25 affected by Wednesday's announcement, however, represent Moscow's delegation.

But Kalb refused to say whether any had engaged in spying.

Since March, the spokesman said, "the Soviet mission has rebuffed repeated U.S. requests that it cooperate in implementing the necessary reduction by advising us which positions would be eliminated to achieve the ceilings established."



Photo by Mike Sanchez

Practice Makes Perfect

Members of the Texas A&M Polo Club, from left, Rogerio Nobrega, Sheri Kurz, Jenny Sharrock, David Hughes and Billy McCaskill get their first

polo lesson — swinging the mallet, which they are required to learn on the fence before trying it while on a horse.

Remains of A&M graduate identified in Laos

MATHIS (AP) — Relatives of a Texas A&M graduate who had been missing in Laos since 1972 say they are glad to get official confirmation that his remains have been identified by the government.

"We can quit worrying and quit wondering," said Alice Ramsower. "When you have a child gone, you want to know what happened. I'm glad. But now it will be final and that will be a comfort."

An Army laboratory positively identified the remains of Air Force Lt. Col. Irving B. Ramsower II, Class of '57, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

His remains were among 14 bodies recovered during the excavation of an airplane crash site in Laos last February.

Ramsower earned a degree in geology at Texas A&M and was a member of the Corps of Cadets.

The family was told in 1972 that

Ramsower was believed to have been aboard a plane that crashed over Laos. In 1978, the Air Force declared Ramsower dead.

Relatives said they still held out for confirmation.

"It just wore on and on," said cousin Earl Ramsower. "You always hoped, but it didn't happen this time."

Earl Ramsower said his cousin, an Eagle Scout and high school quarterback was a quiet man who was

well liked in his hometown of Mathis, a small South Texas farming community where his mother, Alice, still lives.

Ramsower entered basic training in Valdosta, Ga. He met and married his wife, Jutta, while he was stationed in Germany for four years. The couple later moved to Florida.

A military funeral was pending at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

'Better times ahead' for Texas farmers

By Connie Kenjura
Reporter

Texas is experiencing its toughest financial times since the 1930s, but next year promises to be a better year for Texas farms, a Texas A&M economist says.

Dr. Carl Anderson, in a recent newsletter from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, said Texas farm receipts for 1986 are expected to be considerably less than those in 1985, even with the increase in livestock prices during the last half of the year.

"During hard times, he said, the survival of the farm will depend on how it is run.

"Times are lean for Texas agriculture, but they have been lean before," Anderson said. "This is one time think those who manage a farm business, and not just a farm, will do well."

Though Texas agriculture is struggling financially, it would be much worse off without the aid of government programs, Anderson said.

"Government programs are a safety net for the farm income," he said. "The government programs available for farmers are letting the

Nation's largest farm lender may run out of funds in '87

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Farm Credit System, the nation's largest farm lender, is likely to run out of money early next year and will have to come to Congress for a financial bailout, congressional investigators said Wednesday.

The General Accounting Office, in testimony released by Rep. Ed Jones, D-Tenn., estimated the system's losses this year will hit a record \$2.9 billion, eclipsing losses in 1985 of \$2.7 billion.

William J. Anderson, GAO as-

sistant comptroller general, advised lawmakers to begin planning now for how the financial crisis will be handled.

"We cannot be certain about the precise time at which the system's surplus will be effectively exhausted," Anderson said in a testimony prepared for a hearing today before Jones' Agriculture credit subcommittee. He said the system believes it will lose only \$1.7 billion this year rather than the GAO's higher figure.

farmers stabilize and adjust their resources out of agriculture." Anderson said part of the decrease in cash receipts will be made up by increased government payments to the farmer. He said Texas agriculture would show little or no income in 1986 if it were not for government payments to the crop sector.

Low cotton prices are one of the main concerns for Texas, Anderson said. The cotton industry is the state's top industry, making up 10

percent of the state's total cash receipts, he said.

He added that cotton prices are low because of adverse weather conditions. Delayed crops resulted when the season started out too dry, then became too wet, he said.

The world market price for cotton now is 20 cents a pound, compared to 55 cents a pound last year, Anderson said.

He said crop prices have continued to fall while livestock prices registered gains over 1985 levels. At midyear farmers got more for hogs, cattle, broilers and eggs but less for corn, oranges and wheat, he said.

The cattle industry makes up 40 percent of Texas agriculture, Anderson said. Beef prices have finally begun to steady and even rally, he said, because farmers decreased the number of cattle to balance with demand.

Pork has a low profile in Texas, but the prices have increased due to a decline in supply, Anderson said.

Anderson said producers should concentrate on building their businesses around financial and price risk management. Farmers who have a strong farming plan are surviving and holding together during the depressed times, he said.

5 killed as bomb demolishes store in French capital

PARIS (AP) — Terrorists struck the French capital Wednesday for the fifth time in 10 days, demolishing a clothing store with a bomb thrown from a car. Five people were killed and 58 injured, authorities said.

Three people were killed and more than 100 injured in the previous bombings, which prompted the government to adopt tough anti-terrorist measures. Two groups seeking to free three imprisoned Middle Easterners have issued conflicting claims of responsibility for those attacks.

One woman passer-by was blown apart by Wednesday's blast in central Paris, and a witness said another victim was lifted several yards into the air. "It is an incredible sight, many women, children, blood everywhere," said a witness who refused to give his name.

The bomb was tossed from a black BMW carrying two mustachioed men, one of whom rolled down the window and tossed the bomb at the Tati clothing and textile store in the Montparnasse district, said Laurent Davenas, an assistant state prosecutor.

Windows were blown out at several businesses. The sidewalk in front of the Tati store was covered with glass, debris and bleeding victims, many crying out for help. Police cleared a plaza, the Place du 18 Juin, and used it as a helicopter landing pad to evacuate those with the gravest injuries.

A spokesman for the public hospital authority said 19 of those injured in the 5:25 p.m. bombing were in serious condition.

"The most seriously wounded were treated on the sidewalk in front of Tati," one witness said. "I saw people dying."

"It was horrible," another witness said. "A young woman, her legs cut, had half of her face torn off. All you could see was bleeding bodies."

Premier Jacques Chirac called an emergency meeting of his top

security ministers immediately after the attack.

The attack was the bloodiest since the recent wave of bombings began Sept. 8. Earlier explosions hit a city hall post office, a cafeteria in suburban La Defense, the Pub Renault on the Champs-Elysees Avenue and police headquarters in central Paris.

Groups calling themselves the Committee for Solidarity with Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners and the Partisans of Rights and Freedom have issued conflicting claims of responsibility for the earlier bombings and threatened new attacks unless Georges Ibrahim Abdallah and two other jailed Middle Easterners are freed.

In Beirut, an Arabic statement signed by the Committee for Solidarity threatened to launch attacks in the United States.

The two-page statement, delivered Wednesday to the independent newspaper *An-Nahar*, said, "We shall meet soon in your great states. We shall get acquainted with great states, your cities, your skyscrapers, your Statue of Liberty."

French police said Wednesday that Abdallah's brother, Robert, was a prime suspect in the cafeteria bombing, and 200,000 posters were being distributed with his picture and that of another brother, Maurice. Authorities offered a reward of one million francs — \$150,000 — for information leading to their arrest.

The two brothers convened a news conference in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, denying involvement in the bombings and saying they had not been in France in two years. Their statement was made just before the Wednesday attack.

Georges, the suspected leader of a group called the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction, is serving a four-year prison term for possession of arms and false papers.