

I am aware though that the Court has a greatly increasing caseload, and this is a concern I am sure because there are ever more decisions that have the potential for review and that need review, and the Court is limited by sheer virtue of numbers and hours in what can be done; this is a concern.

Senator BAUCUS. What in your view will be the most difficult question the Court will face in the next 25 years—the death penalty? Abortion? What will it be?

Judge O'CONNOR. I do not think I can answer that. It hears all the major issues of the day in one way or another. Most of those land before the Court, and it ultimately addresses most of those grave and serious concerns that this Nation faces in one form or another. I would not know which of those on reflection would turn out to be the most significant.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Judge O'Connor, I am sure you would agree that our constitutional form of government is probably the greatest form of government in the world. Many people feel that the Constitution is the greatest document ever written by the mind of man for the governing of a people.

In view of that I guess a good epitaph for a judge would be, "Here lies a judge who upheld the Constitution."

Judge O'CONNOR. I think that would be very apt, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

In view of that I think we can now recess, as we planned to, until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

[Whereupon, at 5:10 p.m., the hearing was recessed, to reconvene on Thursday, September 10, 1981, at 10 a.m.]

[Biography of Sandra Day O'Connor follows:]

BIOGRAPHY OF SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Birth: March 26, 1930; El Paso, Texas.

Legal residence: Arizona.

Marital status: Married; John Jay O'Connor III; 3 children.

Education: Stanford University; 1950, A.B. degree; 1952, LL.B. degree.

Bar: 1952, California; 1957, Arizona.

Experience: 1952-53, Deputy county attorney, San Mateo County, Calif.; 1954-57, Civilian attorney, Quartermaster Market Center, Frankfurt/Main, W. Germany; 1958-60, Private practice, Maryvale, Ariz.; 1961-64, Homemaker and childcare; 1965-69, Assistant attorney general, State of Arizona; 1969-75, State Senator, Arizona State Senate; 1975-79, Judge, Maricopa County Superior Court; 1979-present, Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals.