

# SENATE CONFIRMS STEVENS, 98 TO 0

DEC 18 1975

He Will Be Sworn by Burger  
Tomorrow as Successor to  
Douglas on High Court

NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17—The Senate confirmed the nomination of Judge John Paul Stevens to the Supreme Court by a vote of 98 to 0 today after just five minutes of discussion.

Judge Stevens will be sworn in Friday morning by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger as the 101st man to sit on the high court.

His swearing-in will bring the Court to full strength and will clear the way for the resolution of a number of important cases that had been delayed because of the illness of the Justice whom Judge Stevens succeeds, William O. Douglas, who resigned Nov. 12.

The swearing-in will also conclude one of the briefer nomination - and - confirmation proceedings in the Court's recent times.

The Senate vote came less than three weeks after President Ford announced the nomination and one week after a three-day confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

One of the main factors in Mr. Ford's choice of Judge Stevens, a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, was the likelihood that he could

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be confirmed easily. There had been some speculation that the Senate would proceed slowly, however, and that there would be no vote until January.

Instead, the Senate seemed to move with uncommon speed—so much so that today, rounding up and counting the votes took four times as long as the so-called "debate" on the nomination that preceded the vote.

The Senate took up the Stevens nomination after its secret session on Angola, with more than a few of its members absent.

Senator James O. Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi and chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said that the committee had fully investigated Judge Stevens and personally concluded: "I think he'd be a worthy addition to our Supreme Court. In fact I think he'd make a great Justice."

Senator John L. McClellan, Democrat of Arkansas, submitted a written statement.

Senator Adlai E. Stevenson 3d Democrat of Illinois, Judge Stevens's home state, called Mr. Ford's choice "a most propitious nomination."

Senator Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illinois, remarked on the "thoroughness" of the committee investigation and the high caliber of judicial appointments from his state.

Senator Roman L. Hruska

of Nebraska, the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, said that the nominee had been "very frank and forthright" in his answers to the committee.

### Two Missing Vote

Everyone present when his name was called voted aye. Then those who had been out of the room—more than half of the membership—returned to cast their votes. The nomination was confirmed with only two Senators missing—Birch Bayh, Democrat of Indiana, and James B. Allen, Democrat of Alabama.

The Court that Judge Stevens will join is facing a growing list of critical issues, including the death penalty, racial segregation in private schools, court-imposed "gag" orders on the press and a variety of questions involving abortion.

Some of these issues have come up only recently. Some, however, have been on the docket for some time, including a number that the Court accepted months ago for review.

None of the most critical cases on the docket several months ago were scheduled for argument this fall, with the exception of a challenge to the campaign financing law. This case had to be heard rapidly because of the approaching election year.

REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!