

Rehnquist a Firm Conservative

High Court Nominee Began His Political Career in Arizona

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Special to The New York Times

PHOENIX, Ariz., Oct. 26—

In 15 years, William H. Rehnquist's goals have shifted from winning the local toastmaster's speech contest to becoming an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

He won his 1956 goal, being chosen the best speaker in the Maricopa Toastmasters' Club.

His chances for the Supreme Court depend on hearings that have not yet begun on his nomination by President Nixon last week.

In 1956, Mr. Rehnquist, newly arrived in Arizona, was trying to open a law practice with another young lawyer, Keith W. Ragan, who was the same age—31 years.

The two joined almost everything in sight, as struggling young lawyers are apt to do. Mr. Rehnquist was a member of several civic organizations, including the Phoenix Quarterback Club, an organization devoted to masterminding football games by hindsight.

Was Jackson's Clerk

Mr. Rehnquist, who was born in Milwaukee, came to Phoenix in 1954 after being law clerk for the late Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson for two years.

While in Washington, he had met a pretty brunette from San Diego, Natalie (Nan) Cornell. They were married in August, 1953. She was working for the Central Intelligence Agency at the time and for weeks would not tell him where she was employed.

Instead of returning to Milwaukee after serving as Mr. Jackson's law clerk, Mr. Rehnquist decided to move to the southwestern part of the United States. He tossed a coin—heads for Phoenix and tails for Albuquerque—and the coin came up heads.

After forming the partnership with Mr. Ragan, who was active in Democratic politics, Mr. Rehnquist became part of the extremely conservative Republican movement that was capturing political control of Arizona.

"Unlike a lot of Arizona politicians who tried to follow the public thought, Rehnquist really is a deep philosophical conservative," a Phoenix lawyer said. "He apparently just sat down and thought it out and decided intellectually that he is against anything liberal."

A Phoenix labor lawyer said that organized labor in Arizona had always considered Mr. Rehnquist antilabor, and the state's central labor council is expected to file a brief against him with the Senate Judiciary Committee.



Phoenix Newspapers, Inc.

William H. Rehnquist during the late 1950's, when he was trying to make a name for himself in Arizona Republican politics.



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The Rev. George B. Brooks of the Arizona N.A.A.C.P. attacked Mr. Rehnquist for opposing an Arizona civil rights bill in 1968.

Constitution say what they wanted it to say."

He described Mr. Warren as a "fine California politician," but not much of a lawyer.

"He was a vote getter who held one political job after another, but he was 58th out of 65 in his law school class," Mr. Rehnquist said.

Three months later, in an interview published in U.S. News and World Report, he said that part of the liberal bent of the Warren Court might have been caused by the Court's law clerks, whose "unconscious slanting" of material he said may have decided which cases the Court considered.

He said he was sure that "unconscious bias" had crept into his work for Justice Jackson, and "I doubt if many of my fellow clerks were much less guilty than I."

State Prosecutor

In 1958, Mr. Rehnquist was hired as a special prosecutor to help bring charges against a number of Arizona state officials who were accused of state highway frauds.

While he was busy trying to make a name for himself in Arizona politics, his wife, a member of the Phoenix Junior League, was busy with their three small children — James, Janet and Nancy.

In 1957 he and Mr. Ragan dissolved their two-man law partnership and Mr. Rehnquist became an unlisted partner in the firm of Cunningham, Carson and Messenger.

In 1960, he left and formed another partnership, this one with James Powers, a former trial lawyer for the Internal Revenue Service.

This partnership lasted until February, 1969, when President Nixon, on the recommendation of Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, appointed him as an Assistant Attorney General.

In 1964, under Mr. Kleindienst's direction, he had been active in Senator Barry Goldwater's Presidential campaign, and in 1966, he was legal counsel for the John Haugh for Governor Committee.

Considered Racist

Many Arizona Negroes considered Mr. Rehnquist to be a racist. In 1968, he was outspoken in his opposition to a civil rights bill pending before the Arizona Legislature.

Last week, the Rev. George B. Brooks, a leader in the Arizona National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said that Mr. Rehnquist "was the only major person of stature in the state who opposed the Arizona civil rights bill in 1968." And State Senator Cloves Campbell, a Negro,

said that Mr. Rehnquist was a "John Bircher."

The Arizona chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. in a meeting in Phoenix last weekend adopted a resolution to oppose Mr. Rehnquist's confirmation.

Billie Mills, Phoenix N.A.A.C.P. president, said, "The opposition is growing because of his strong leanings toward the John Birch Society and other right-wing groups and his stand on the Arizona civil right legislation."

Senator Campbell said that if Mr. Rehnquist was confirmed, "all the good work that has been accomplished by the Supreme Court would be thrown out the window."

Almost all of Mr. Rehnquist's former law partners came forward to deny that he was a racist or a member of the Birch Society. They said he had opposed some civil rights legislation because he considered the proposals to be unconstitutional.

In 1969, when he was being considered for the job of general counsel for the Attorney General, Mr. Brooks filed a protest against him with Attorney General John N. Mitchell. However, Mr. Rehnquist was not questioned about it in his public appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

On Law and Orders

After becoming an Assistant Attorney General, he made several trips to Arizona to make speeches. On March 15, 1971, in an address before the Maricopa County Bar Association, he outlined his beliefs on "law and order."

"Occasionally," he said, "some law enforcement official is going to follow the wrong man, but it would be a mistake to regard that error as a violation of a man's civil rights."

He said that critics of government investigative policies lacked consistency.

"The critics blasted the Secret Service because they didn't stop Oswald from planning and committing President Kennedy's murder," he said. "They wanted to know why it wasn't prevented. When the Army was naive to pursue this line of thinking and began preventive investigation, it came under attack."

Mr. Rehnquist said he was "skeptical of either legislative limits on what could be investigated or judicial control on investigation."

Backed by Arizona Bar

PHOENIX, Ariz., Oct 27 (AP)—The State Bar of Arizona yesterday unanimously endorsed the nomination of Mr. Rehnquist and called for his confirmation by the Senate.

Assailed Court Left

An Arizona judge described Mr. Rehnquist as "basically a humorless man, somewhat prissy in his attitudes."

On Sept. 20, 1957, Mr. Rehnquist made his first major political speech, before the Maricopa Young Republican League at the Phoenix Young Men's Christian Association building.

He denounced the "left wing" of the Supreme Court—Chief Justice Earl Warren and Associate Justices William O. Douglas and Hugo L. Black—who he declared were "making the