

Court to Review Wiretap Appeals

by Fred P. Graham

Washington, Dec. 14 - In another action today, the Supreme Court overturned two obscenity convictions, but Justice Byron R. White opposed the decisions in a way that indicated he may have switched to a new conservative position that could become the majority view of the full nine-member Court.

Since 1967, the Court has routinely been reversing obscenity convictions without granting hearings or giving reasons, other than to cite the case of Redrup v. New York, which Justice White joined. The ruling in that case suggested that obscenity convictions should be overturned unless the material had been sold to juveniles, or thrust upon unwilling adults.