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SFXaminer

Vote Bias Charged to Nominee

WASHINGTON — (CST) — Three new affidavits have been obtained supporting charges that Supreme Court nominee William H. Rehnquist tried to prevent blacks from voting at a Phoenix polling place in 1964 by forcing them to read portions of the Arizona Constitution.

The new affidavits bring to seven the number of sworn statements placing Rehnquist at the Bethune precinct polling place on Nov. 3, 1964. Rehnquist denies he was there.

Quincy J. Hopper, 38, said in his signed statement that he personally saw voters being challenged and later was involved in calling police to have the challenger removed from the polling place when a disturbance broke out.

"Now that I have seen pictures of people," Hopper said in his statement, "I can tell you without doubt that this William Rehnquist is the same man who was at our voting place. Of this I am sure."

Other affidavits were obtained by the publisher of a weekly newspaper in Phoenix from Hopper's father Ira and from Mrs. Varnella L. Bobo.

Mrs. Bobo said she saw two policemen removing a man from the polling place "who had been stopping people from voting."

According to the affidavit, Mrs. Bobo said "people were talking about a fight (in the polling place) and this man's name was mentioned. His name was Rehnquist. You know, some names you remember and some names you forget. That is a name I couldn't forget."

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Proxmire Switch-- To OK Rehnquist

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) announced today he will vote for the confirmation of William H. Rehnquist to be a justice of the Supreme Court.

Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), leading opponent of Rehnquist, called the endorsement by Proxmire, a liberal "deeply distressing."

"The court demands a high degree of intellectual capacity, and Mr. Rehnquist has it," Proxmire told the Senate.

He said if the Senate is to reject nominees because of disagreement with their views, "we will have a court of political weathervanes . . ."

"We don't need another U.S. Senate interpreting the laws," Proxmire said.

In earlier court controversies, Proxmire had voted against the nominations of Clement G. Haynsworth and G. Harrold Carswell, both Southerners.

Proxmire's announcement was further evidence that Bayh's opposition forces will not be able to muster the vote to block confirmation of Rehnquist.

The Senate debate on Rehnquist's confirmation continued, meantime, in the wake of Republican charges that Democrats were "attempting a filibuster."

Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania accused Bayh of conducting "a lonely filibuster." Bayh, a leader of the opposition to Rehnquist, called Scott's charge "a lot of baloney."

Scott says he knows of 73 solid votes to confirm the nomination of the 47 year old assistant attorney general, a former Phoenix lawyer.

Other senators who urged rejection of Rehnquist's nomination yesterday were John V. Tunney (D-Calif.), Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.), and Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.).