

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

WHORM Subject File Code: FG051
Casefile Number(s): 038900-039999

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: WHORM: Subject File

Archivist: dlb

File Folder: FG051 (Supreme Court) (039000-051999)

Date: 9/19/97

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. Memo (039926)	Morton Blackwell to Gregg Newell, re: President's Meeting with Carolyn Gerster, 2 p.	9/10/81	P5 MSP 12/7/00

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

ID # 038920

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

FG051

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/10/09

PLB/AC

Name of Correspondent: B. Robert Biscoe

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: opposes the appointment of Sandra O'Connor as a Supreme Court Judge.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>✓ PL Blac</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>8/10/09</u>			<u>8/10/09</u>
<u>✓ Justice</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>8/10/09</u>			<u>8/10/09</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOb).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4500 _____

Prime Subject Code: EG 051 Secondary Subject Codes: LN 030 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P-
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

10/21

2030



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

September 25, 1981

Dr. B. Robert Biscoe
Executive Secretary
American Council of Christian
Churches
P.O. Box 816
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 19482

Dear Dr. Biscoe:

The President has asked this office to respond to your letter of September 8, 1981 regarding the nomination of Judge Sandra O'Connor to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

As you know, Judge O'Connor's nomination has by now been confirmed by the Senate. At the time your letter was written, the President already had nominated Judge O'Connor.

The President is aware of the concern voiced by some with regard to Judge O'Connor's legislative record in the Arizona Senate. At the Senate Judiciary Committee Hearings on her nomination, Judge O'Connor explained in detail her legislative record in the area of abortion. She also stated unequivocally that she is personally opposed to abortion and finds it abhorrent.

As you may be aware, Judge O'Connor was confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Senate. Senators who have very strong pro-life records voted for Judge O'Connor's confirmation both in the Judiciary Committee and in the Senate.

Thank you for your expression of concern about this very important issue. If we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn B. Kuhl".

Carolyn B. Kuhl
Special Assistant to
the Attorney General

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

SEPTEMBER 15, 1981

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
SEP 16 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 038920

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. B. ROBERT BISCOE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES
POST OFFICE BOX 816
VALLEY FORGE PA 19482

SUBJECT: OPPOSES THE APPOINTMENT OF SANDRA O'CONNOR
AS A SUPREME COURT JUDGE

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

BB2/TMO-3
RECEIVED UNIT
SEP 15 2 37 PM '81

5

Martin Blackwell

The American Council of Christian Churches



"Contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3)

P.O. BOX 816, VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA 19482

Office of The Executive Secretary

(215) 933-8903

September 8, 1981

President Reagan
White House
Washington, D.C. 20501

038920

Dear Mr. President,

We, as a Council of Churches, are opposed to the appointment of Sandra O'Connor as a Supreme Court Judge. The record indicates that, as a State Senator, her voting record was not in keeping with your platform, particularly in the area of abortion. And certainly, having reviewed your platform, you would not appoint her just to appease those that desire to see women in high offices.

It is our hope that this appointment will not be approved and that, should it be your desire to have a woman on the Supreme Court as a judge, that the Lord would lead you to another worthy of the office.

Thank you for taking time to consider our request to not appoint former State Senator Sandra O'Connor.

Sincerely,

B. Robert Biscoe, LL.D.
Executive Secretary

BRB/gkw

FB051

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 81 1 09 1 09

P/B/AC

Name of Correspondent: Peter MacDonald

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Supports nomination of Judge Sandra O'Connor to the Supreme Court.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>PL Blac</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>81 1 09 1 10</u>		C	<u>81 1 09 1 30</u>
<u>Justice</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u>	<u>81 1 09 1 11</u>		A	<u>81 1 09 1 25</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: T Individual Codes: 4400 _____

Prime Subject Code: FG 051 Secondary Subject Codes: IX _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

September 25, 1981

Mr. Peter MacDonald
Chairman
Navajo Tribal Council
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

The President has asked this office to extend to you his and our sincere gratitude for your message in support of Judge Sandra O'Connor's nomination to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

You might be interested to know that in response to a written question posed by the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding her commitment to equal justice under the law, Judge O'Connor mentioned her personal concern for the traditions of native Americans. She stated:

Through the Heard Museum in Phoenix, as a Trustee and its President, I have worked to foster and encourage understanding and communication with the several Indian tribes and the native Americans in Arizona through various programs and projects.

I have forwarded a copy of your telegram to Justice O'Connor. I am certain she will be pleased to know of the endorsement of the Navajo Tribal Council.

Again, thank you for your message of support.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn B. Kuhl".

Carolyn B. Kuhl
Special Assistant to
the Attorney General

cc: Judge S. O'Connor

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

SEPTEMBER 15, 1981

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
SEP 16 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 038995

MEDIA: TELEGRAM, DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. PETER MACDONALD
CHAIRMAN
NAVAJO TRIBAL COUNCIL
WINDOW ROCK AZ 86515

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS NOMINATION OF JUDGE SANDRA O'CONNOR
TO THE SUPREME COURT

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

85217ND-3
RECEIVED UNIT

SEP 15 2 35 PM '81

Morton Blackwell

WHB 125 (2143) (4-0709 02S251) PD 09/08/81 2143

81 SEP 8 P10:53

ICS IPMRNCZ CSP

6028714227 IDR N WINDOW ROCK AZ 112 09-08 0943P EST

FMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGON RPT DLY MGM

038995

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR YOUR NOMINATION OF JUDGE SANDRA O'CONNOR TO SERVE AS A JUSTICE IN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

JUDGE O'CONNOR HAS IN MY ESTIMATION DEMONSTRATED HER CAPABILITIES AS A LEGAL SCHOLAR AND A LEGISLATOR. SHE CERTAINLY HAS POTENTIAL TO DO MORE FOR OUR COUNTRY. AS A SOUTHWESTERNER, SHE UNDERSTANDS AND APPRECIATES THE RICH CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS. THE NAVAJO TRIBAL COUNCIL, ON AUGUST 27, 1981, OFFICIALLY ENDORSED THE NOMINATION OF JUDGE O'CONNOR. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NAVAJO TRIBAL

COUNCIL, I HEREBY PERSONALLY REAFFIRM THAT ACTION AND HOPE TO SEE SANDRA O'CONNOR AS THE FIRST WOMAN JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

SINCERELY

PETER MACDONALD, CHAIRMAN, NAVAJO TRIBAL COUNCIL

NAVAJO NATION

WINDOW ROCK AZ 86515

NNNN

ET
John

ID # 039327
FG051

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/10/14

Name of Correspondent: Edward J. King

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Supports the President's decision to appoint a woman to serve as a Supreme Court justice.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>IA Meda</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>OH 8/10/15</u>	<u>NAN</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>8/10/15</u>
_____	_____	<u> / /</u>	_____	_____	<u> / /</u>
_____	_____	<u> / /</u>	_____	_____	<u> / /</u>
_____	_____	<u> / /</u>	_____	_____	<u> / /</u>
_____	_____	<u> / /</u>	_____	_____	<u> / /</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 2,100 _____

Prime Subject Code: EG 051 _____ Secondary Subject Codes: ST 021 _____
HU 016 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

Jim
Medaw



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

EDWARD J. KING
GOVERNOR

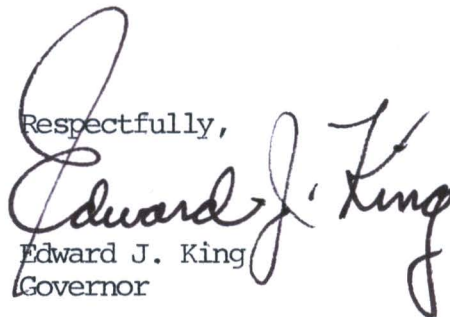
039327

September 8, 1981

President Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Your decision to appoint a woman to serve as a Supreme Court Justice has my strongest support.

Respectfully,

Edward J. King
Governor

EJK:mmf

D. G. K.

ID # 039721

FG051

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/10/91

REGRET
DATE _____
MPC

Name of Correspondent: Strom Thurmond

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Suggests the President consider meeting with the leaders of various Christian groups who have expressed concerns about the nomination of Sandra

ROUTE TO: O'Connor

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	ACTION Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	DISPOSITION Type of Response Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>La Frie</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8/09/91</u> ^{TR}	<u>MF</u>	<u>A 8/09/91</u> ^{CH}
<u>/SC NEW</u>	Referral Note: <u>A</u> ^{CH}	<u>8/09/92</u>	<u>GN</u>	<u>A 8/10/01</u> ^{CH}
_____	Referral Note: _____	<u> / /</u>	_____	<u> / /</u>
_____	Referral Note: _____	<u> / /</u>	_____	<u> / /</u>
_____	Referral Note: _____	<u> / /</u>	_____	<u> / /</u>

- ACTION CODES:**
- A - Appropriate Action
 - C - Comment/Recommendation
 - D - Draft Response
 - F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

- DISPOSITION CODES:**
- A - Answered
 - B - Non-Special Referral
 - C - Completed
 - S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
 Type of Response = Initials of Signer
 Code = "A"
 Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOb).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 1.220 _____

Prime Subject Code: FG 051 Secondary Subject Codes: PR 007
RM 030

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C		Time: _____	P-
DSP		Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence
 - n - 0 - Unknown
 - n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
 - n - 3 - Ron
 - n - 4 - Dutch
 - n - 5 - Ron Reagan
 - n - 6 - Ronald
 - n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence
 - n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Nancy
 - n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
 - n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

BEEBEL

October 1, 1981

Dear Senator Thurmond:

This is with further reference to your letter of September 11 to the President suggesting that he consider meeting with the leaders of various Christian Groups who have expressed concerns about the nomination of Judge O'Connor as an Associate Justice of The Supreme Court.

Because of the extremely heavy schedule to which he now is committed, a time is not foreseen when the President might have the opportunity to meet with this group. He does want you to know, though, that he greatly appreciates your interest in making this request for those who have been among his staunchest supporters.

With the President's very best wishes to you,

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Newell
Special Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

✓ Inf cc: Max Friedersdorf
GJN:mhr:emb-44a

Dear Senator Thurmond:

~~Max Friedersdorf has brought to my attention~~
This is with further reference to your letter of
September 11 to the President suggesting that
he consider meeting with the leaders of various
Christian groups who have expressed concerns about
the nomination of Judge O'Connor as an Associate
Justice of The Supreme Court.

Because of the extremely heavy schedule to which
he now is committed, a time is not foreseen when
the President might have the opportunity to meet
with this group. He does want you to know, though,
that he greatly appreciates your interest in making
this request for those who have been among his
staunchest supporters.

With the President's very best wishes to you,

GJN:mhr

inf copy to Max Friedersdorf

September 21, 1981

Dear Strom:

Thank you for the thoughts and suggestions contained in your recent letter to President Reagan.

The President certainly appreciates the importance of having the support of concerned Christian leaders, and I will be pleased to see that your recommendation receives careful consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any additional suggestions you may have at this time.

Again, many thanks for all your help and support.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

MLF:CMP:asr

cc: w/copy of inc, Greg Newell - for appropriate action.

cc: Powell Moore - FYI.

STROM THURMOND, S. C., CHAIRMAN

CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS, JR., MD.
PAUL LAXALT, NEV.
ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH
ROBERT DOLE, KANS.
ALAN K. SIMPSON, WYO.
JOHN EAST, N. C.
CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
JEREMIAH DENTON, ALA.
ARLEN SPECTER, PA.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DEL.
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS.
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.
HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO
DENNIS DECONCINI, ARIZ.
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VT.
MAX BAUCUS, MONT.
HOWELL HEFLIN, ALA.

VINTON DEVANE LIDE, CHIEF COUNSEL
QUENTIN CROMMELIN, JR., STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

September 11, 1981

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

039721

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to suggest that you consider meeting with the leaders of various Christian groups who have expressed concerns about the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor and what they perceive to be a lessening of your Administration's commitment to conservative social issues. Several of us in the Senate would be glad to cooperate with your office in compiling a list of the Christian leaders with whom you might meet.

As you know, we have been successful in persuading a number of the leaders of Christian groups not to oppose Judge O'Connor, and thus far they have cooperated with us. Nevertheless, I think it is important that you personally emphasize to these key persons the commitment of your Administration to conservative social issues in which they are vitally interested and thereby re-establish close, working communications with these groups who have been among your staunchest supporters.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request, and please let me know if I can cooperate with your staff in suggesting persons with whom you may wish to meet.

Respectfully,

Strom Thurmond

Strom Thurmond
Chairman

ST/yr

37

STROM THURMOND, S. C., CHAIRMAN
CHARLES McC. MATHIAS, JR., MD. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DEL.
PAUL LAXALT, NEV. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS.
ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.
ROBERT DOLE, KANS. HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO
ALAN K. SIMPSON, WYO. DENNIS DECONCINI, ARIZ.
JOHN EAST, N. C. PATRICK J. LEAHY, VT.
CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA MAX BAUCUS, MONT.
JEREMIAH DENTON, ALA. HOWELL HEFLIN, ALA.
ARLEN SPECTER, PA.

VINTON DEVANE LIDE, CHIEF COUNSEL
QUENTIN CROMMELIN, JR., STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 11, 1981

*Thanks for your
concern
BUT...*

REGRET
DATE 30 Sept 81
MPC

039721

m 7

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to suggest that you consider meeting with the leaders of various Christian groups who have expressed concerns about the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor and what they perceive to be a lessening of your Administration's commitment to conservative social issues. Several of us in the Senate would be glad to cooperate with your office in compiling a list of the Christian leaders with whom you might meet.

As you know, we have been successful in persuading a number of the leaders of Christian groups not to oppose Judge O'Connor, and thus far they have cooperated with us. Nevertheless, I think it is important that you personally emphasize to these key persons the commitment of your Administration to conservative social issues in which they are vitally interested and thereby re-establish close, working communications with these groups who have been among your staunchest supporters.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request, and please let me know if I can cooperate with your staff in suggesting persons with whom you may wish to meet.

Respectfully,

Strom Thurmond

Strom Thurmond
Chairman

ST/yr

J. J. [unclear]

ID # 039786
FG051

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 81109117

Name of Correspondent: Jeremiah A. Denton

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Forwards his reasons for casting a "present" vote on the O'Connor nomination in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and explains his dissatisfaction with Judge O'Connor's answers to the Committee's questions on the abortion issue

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA</u>	<u>FRIE</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>81,09,17</u>	<u>NAN</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>81,09,25</u>
		Referral Note:				
			<u>/ /</u>			<u>/ /</u>
		Referral Note:				
			<u>/ /</u>			<u>/ /</u>
		Referral Note:				
			<u>/ /</u>			<u>/ /</u>
		Referral Note:				
			<u>/ /</u>			<u>/ /</u>
		Referral Note:				

- ACTION CODES:**
- A - Appropriate Action
 - C - Comments
 - D - Draft Response
 - F - Fact Sheet
 - I - Info Copy/No Action Necessary
 - R - Direct Reply w/Copy
 - S - For Signature
 - X - Interim Reply
- DISPOSITION CODES:**
- A - Answered
 - B - Non-Special Referral
 - C - Completed
 - S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: The President called Senator Denton on Thursday, Sept. 17, 1981

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 1220 _____

Prime Subject Code: EG 051 - _____ Secondary Subject Codes: PR 007.02
WE 003 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
 - n - 0 - Unknown
 - n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
 - n - 3 - Ron
 - n - 4 - Dutch
 - n - 5 - Ron Reagan
 - n - 6 - Ronald
 - n - 7 - Ronnie
- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**
 - n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Nancy
 - n - 3 -
- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
 - n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

15 September 1981

039786

Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

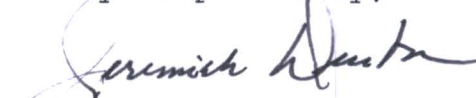
As you are undoubtedly aware by now, I was unable, in good conscience, to vote in favor of your nominee, Sandra O'Connor, during the vote taken this morning in the Senate Judiciary Committee. At the same time, I was unwilling to vote "no" on the nomination, casting instead a "present" vote for those reasons expressed in my statement before the Committee, a copy of which I am attaching for your consideration.

As I have stated on this and numerous other occasions, I consider myself among your very strongest supporters in the Senate, indeed the entire Congress. Would that I could have supported you in this nomination.

Chuck Grassley said in the Committee this morning that you had personally reassured him yesterday of your feeling, based on your discussion with her, that Judge O'Connor's position on the abortion issue was and is completely acceptable to you. Out of deep respect for you and your prerogatives as Chief Executive, I would have welcomed your assurances in this regard and my vote would have been different. I tried, in fact, to contact you yesterday afternoon in order that we might discuss the matter.

Trusting you will understand my position, I remain

Very respectfully,



Jeremiah A. Denton
United States Senator

JD:dd

*The # called
Denton*

STATEMENT OF SENATOR JEREMIAH DENTON CONCERNING THE
NOMINATION OF SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR TO BE ASSOCIATE
JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

Before the Senate Judiciary Committee - Executive Session

15 September 1981

Mr. Chairman, my vote on the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to the United States Supreme Court is one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to make, and I have approached the task with humility and with the most intense deliberation.

I reject the argument that a so-called single issue should not govern a conclusion regarding the fitness of a nominee to serve on the Supreme Court. Where any issue is so broad in its implications, threatening the very basis of our society, as is the case with our policy respecting the rights of unborn human beings, the effect is to overshadow virtually all other considerations.

It is fair to say that many who deride the question of abortion as a "single issue" would be the first to attack, and I think rightly, a prospective Supreme Court Justice who would reverse the direction this country has taken with respect to civil rights.

And certainly there are issues important enough even to risk one's life for. In general, the Civil War was fought because the nation believed the issue of slavery was that important. The war was one of the worst in history in terms of casualties on both sides, but this sacrifice was worth the candle in order to rid this nation of the inherently evil system of slavery.

In short, if I were persuaded that Judge O'Connor held a view that would now place her with the majority in the Supreme Court ruling in Roe vs. Wade, I could not in good conscience vote to confirm her nomination despite my conviction that she is otherwise a superior candidate.

To take such a position, however, requires that I satisfy myself beyond doubt that her position on this matter and her views of the role of the Court and the authority of the Constitution would lead her to embrace the Roe vs. Wade ruling.

I said at the beginning of this hearing that my decision must be based on Judge O'Connor's answers to the questions posed at this hearing. I trust her and believe her to be sincere in what she has said to the members of this committee. Still, I am far from satisfied with her answers.

She has refused to answer questions about her view of the legal issues presented in past Supreme Court decisions such as Roe vs. Wade. She has stated that, in her opinion, any criticism of such decisions may prejudice her with regard to decisions that may come before the Court during her tenure as a Supreme Court Justice.

It is the opinion of many others whom I respect, including the Chairman of this Committee, that Judge O'Connor is correct in her caution in responding to questions that attempt to elicit her view as to the correctness of past decisions.

If we accept that doctrine, we are barred from learning anything about a nominee's legal opinions, as opposed to his or her personal opinions. It may not be proper for a prospective member of the Court to discuss a case pending before the Court, and a nominee would be correct in refusing to discuss a hypothetical case. If actual cases, already decided, cannot be the subject of questioning, we are left with trying to determine the nominee's "personal" views on the subject. The problem is that, in the context of service on the Supreme Court, "personal" views are largely irrelevant. For someone to say, "I am personally opposed to abortion" reveals nothing about the person's opinions on the way such questions must be addressed by the Court.

Thus, I am asked to fulfill my duties under the Constitution with regard to the nomination, and I find it difficult to do so. I know very little about Judge O'Connor's opinions on the great legal issues of the day. To revert to the issue of abortion, is it not reasonable to have a nominee to the nation's highest court state her position on this issue-- that is, her position on the law? In Judge O'Connor's term on the Court, she will probably be called upon to decide many issues that revolve around the question: What constitutes human life? In an age of cloning and gene-splicing, that question may be the most important of all.

Judge O'Connor is a fine lady and a distinguished jurist. The President has selected for his first Supreme Court nomination a person who, but for her reluctance to answer the Committee's questions, is clearly in the very

front rank of eminent jurists most fully qualified to assume the awesome responsibilities of service on the Supreme Court.

In consideration of my own intense concern for the rights of the unborn, in consideration of my trust in President Reagan and my acceptance of his assurances concerning the nominee's views on the sanctity of human life, and in consideration for my previously expressed trust in the talented and accomplished lady who has been nominated, I can but express the fervent hope that my trust in Judge O'Connor is properly placed.

But in the context of these hearings, I cannot assent on hope nor can I dissent from uncertainty. I cannot in fairness penalize Judge O'Connor for what I consider to be an inherent defect in the procedure for reviewing the qualifications of a prospective Justice. Thus, Mr. Chairman, my vote is to respond "Present."

039926

4630

FG051

October 15, 1981

Dear Carolyn:

I'm sorry that I wasn't able to meet with you while you were in Washington, but, unfortunately, the demands of my schedule wouldn't permit it. I do want you to know, however, how badly I feel about the controversy that arose over my nomination of Judge Sandra O'Connor. It was especially unfortunate that certain remarks were inaccurately taken to refer to you.

Carolyn, I continue to share your deep commitment to ensuring protection for the fundamental right to life of every human being.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN A

Dr. Carolyn Gerster
7350 East Stetson Drive
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

RR/AVH/RCH/lme

replacement letter for the Sep. 17, 81 Pres.
letter that was not sent out
8 8/10/81 per Anne Higgins

not sent

September 17, 1981

039926

R 4630
4800

FG051

HU 016

PR 007

PR 016

WE 003

Dear Carolyn:

I'm sorry that I wasn't able to meet with you while you were in Washington last week but, unfortunately, the demands of my schedule wouldn't permit it. I do want you to know, however, how badly I feel about the controversy that has risen over opposition to my nomination of Judge Sandra O'Connor to sit on the Supreme Court, and hope that, now, we can put this behind us.

Carolyn, I continue to share your deep commitment to ensuring protection for the fundamental right to life of every human being. I am horrified by the senseless destruction of human life that continues everyday unabated. I look forward to working with Henry Hyde and others in Congress to resolve this issue legislatively during the 97th Congress.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Dr. Carolyn Gerster^x
7350 East Stetson Drive
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

*Original file sent to Sarah Emery
(copies retained in Central Files) on 9/29/81*

RR/AVH/RCH/lme

*Note:
9/17/81 ltr was never mailed out
according to Ann Higgins.
However when file received in Central Files
no indication shown it was not mailed.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

14 SEPTEMBER 1981

TO: Anne Higgins

FROM: Tricia Rodgers



Carolyn Gerster had hand-delivered her request to visit the President while she was in Washington during Judge O'Connor's confirmation hearings.

Red Cavaney and I have discussed how best to respond to Mrs. Gerster's letter, and agreed that a letter from the President would be most appropriate.

The Appointments and Scheduling office has not contacted Dr. Gerster formally, and would like included in the President's letter a statement that he is sorry that his schedule during the period she was in Washington just wouldn't permit him to visit with her, but he looks forward to seeing her sometime in the future.

I am enclosing all materials pertinent to Dr. Gerster's request.

Thank you.

cc: Red Cavaney

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

GJN:

On the attached:

Friday night Red Cowney
& I discussed this and
we agreed that a special
letter from the P

would be a good idea.

So, OK to send to
Anne Hissins?

Yes
TH
9/14

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 11, 1981

→ *Red - Info.*
~~TO: Diana~~

FROM: Morton

RE: Letter from Dr. Carolyn Gerster

I received from you this morning via red tag Dr. Gerster's letter to the President dated the day before yesterday.

Yesterday, Greg Newell sent me the original letter, with a red dot yet, and asked for an immediate recommendation.

Attached is the memo I sent to him.

*Red, did you see before
Morton sent?*

File


*to Tricia
Byers*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 10, 1981

TO: Gregg Newell

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell 

RE: President's meeting with Carolyn Gerster

I strongly endorse the suggestion that the President meet with Dr. Carolyn Gerster during her current visit to D. C.

This is the time to rebuild bridges to the right to life community, and Dr. Gerster is the ideal person for this purpose.

Contrary to the presumed suggestion in the President's letter to Mrs. Craven on August 3, Dr. Gerster is not fairly characterized as "vindictive". To the contrary, she is held in extraordinarily high regard by virtually every leader in the extraordinarily diverse coalition of right to life groups. There are many strong personalities among the right to life leaders. There are many personality conflicts and disputes over policy and methods of procedure in the right to life movement. Dr. Gerster has been remarkable in her ability to get along with virtually all the other leaders. That is why the presumed Presidential attack on her personally was the source of so much shock and unrest in the right to life community.

I have seen Dr. Gerster interviewed on national television this week. Her posture toward the President was consistently respectful.

I suggest that the President invite only Dr. Gerster to meet with him. I am confident that it would be a cordial meeting. We do have the change of position stated yesterday by Judge O'Connor in which she said she had changed her position on the abortion legislation vote she cast many years ago in the Arizona legislature.

If, as I believe, Dr. Gerster leaves the meeting with the President convinced that he is still basically supportive of the right to life position and that his consciousness has to some extent been raised on this issue by the controversy surrounding Judge O'Connor's appointment, she will quickly pass the word in the right to life community. Short of an immediate filling of another Supreme Court vacancy with a known right to life activist, a renewed rapprochement between Dr. Gerster and the President would do more to deflate the current political unrest with the right to life community than any other action the Administration can take. It might be suggested

that such a meeting be postponed until after Senate confirmation of Judge O'Connor, but taking this initiative now would have a much greater effect. Better to prevent to the extent possible the solidification of anger and despair which will build in the right to life community if the President appears unsympathetic up through the time of the final Senate vote.

cc: Elizabeth H. Dole



Suite 341, National Press Bldg. — 529 14th Street, N.W. —
Washington, D. C. 20045 — (202) 638-4396

September 9, 1981

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On my return August 19 from East Africa I was informed of the enclosed letter, which received extensive media exposure through Patrick Buchanan's syndicated column. The letter, allegedly written by you to Mrs. Marie Craven of Chicago, Ill., states in part "I believe that most of the talk about my appointment was stirred up principally by one person in Arizona. I have done a great deal of checking on this and have found this person has something of a record of being vindictive."

The media has assumed that I am that "vindictive" person and this widely publicized assumption has not been denied by the White House.

In my July 15 letter to Attorney General William French Smith, regarding the Kenneth Starr memorandum, I have described Mrs. O'Connor as "dedicated, highly intelligent, capable, and a very likeable person."

In the Senate Steering Committee I stated that Judge O'Connor was "a gracious and a gifted lady." My criticism deals with Judge O'Connor's 1970-1974 voting record on abortion-related issues and not with the individual.

As President of the National Right to Life Committee in 1980, I had the privilege of meeting with you on two occasions, in January in Rye, New York, and in June in Los Angeles.

I had faith then, as I do now, in your integrity and pro-life commitment.

I do not believe that you wrote the letter to Mrs. Craven, but if so, it was because you were given seriously misleading information.

My family and friends, however, are understandably distressed.

The hurt and bewilderment of the pro-life movement will, I believe, only be dispelled by open and honest communication.

*filed ID 035659
FG 051*

I would like to meet with you while I am in Washington for the confirmation hearings, September 9th through 11th.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Gerster, M.D.".

Carolyn Gerster, M.D.
Vice-President in Charge of International Affairs
National Right to Life Committee

CG:sb
Enclosures

Text of Reagan's, Craven's Letters

On the day that President Reagan announced the nomination of Sandra O'Connor, Chicago prolifer Marie Craven wrote to him expressing her opposition. Her letter sparked a revealing response several weeks later. The texts of Mrs. Craven's and President Reagan's letters follow.

Dear President Reagan,

July 7, 1981

A number of prolife people are planning on picketing you at your departure point tonight to protest your appointment of Judge O'Connor from Arizona for the office of Supreme Court Justice. Instead of participating in this protest, I have decided to write this letter.

I have been an active prolife since April of 1973. I have served and am serving on boards of directors of local prolife groups, have served as chairman of Illinois Citizens Concerned for Life, and have contributed too many valuable hours away from family and small children to let what you have done today go unnoticed.

I have anger, resentment and frustration pent up in me at this moment, because I sincerely feel you have betrayed me and millions of Americans. I include over eight million preborn babies, as well as those who will continue to be aborted simply because they are an inconvenience to so many of our nation's women.

I am a Chicago resident of Irish Catholic heritage, and up until my involvement in prolife a committed Democrat. I worked for your election along with countless others, distributing your campaign literature, making phone calls, organizing blitzes, etc. etc. I don't want credit for any of this; I just want you to know that at this precise moment I know that the power of the office has taken precedence over your party platform and campaign promises.

I feel I am a grass-roots citizen — and I am sickened by witnessing once again the broken promises of the politician.

When you were shot, I prayed for your swift recovery. I continue to pray for you daily, that your judgments will be wise ones. Today I am having difficulty believing that you meant the words of the letter that you sent to the National Right to Life Convention on June 18, 1981.

"I share your hope that some day soon our laws will re-affirm this principle (that abortion is the taking of human life). We've worked together for a long time now, and like you, I am hopeful that we will soon see a solution to this difficult problem."

By this appointment, you have betrayed the prolife position. Judge Sandra O'Connor supported pro-abortion legislation when she was an Arizona legislator. How can, then, this appointment bring us closer to our goal of protecting the preborn children of America?

I only hope that the United States Senate rejects your appointment. Maybe this is your ultimate goal — your appointment of a woman to satisfy the pro-choice feminists — followed by rejection of her appointment by the Senate and an alternate candidate appointed to satisfy all factions.

I hope, for the sake of our nation's most vital resource, our children, I am right.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Marie Craven

(This is the rough draft of Mrs. Marie Craven's letter to the President. The final version had stylistic changes, but no change in substance. Only one copy of the final, hand-written version exists; it is at the White House.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 3, 1981

Dear Mrs. Craven:

I'm sorry to be so long in responding to your letter, but I've found in all the channels of government, it often takes a while for letters such as yours to get through the mail department and over to my desk. So forgive me for that. I thank you for writing and appreciate the opportunity to comment with regard to my Supreme Court appointment and my position on abortion.

I believe that most of the talk about my appointment was stirred up principally by one person in Arizona. I have done a great deal of checking on this and have found this person has something of a record of being vindictive. I have not changed my position; I do not think I have broken my pledge. Mrs. O'Connor has assured me of her personal abhorrence for abortion. She has explained, as her attacker did not explain, the so-called vote against preventing university hospitals in Arizona from performing abortions.

What actually happened occurred back when she was a Senator in the state government. A bill had been passed by the Senate and sent over to the House calling for some rebuilding of the football stadium at the university. The House added an amendment which would have prevented the university hospitals from performing abortions. But the constitution of Arizona makes it plain that any amendment must deal with the subject in the original bill or it is illegal. For this reason the Senate, including Mrs. O'Connor, turned that down.

Much is being made now of her not coming out with flat declarations regarding what she might do in the future. But let me point out it is impossible for her to do this because such statements could then be used to disqualify her in future cases coming before the Supreme Court. She is simply observing a legal protocol that is imposed on anyone who is in the process of a judicial appointment. I have every confidence in her and now want you to know my own position.

I still believe that an unborn child is a human being and that the only way that unborn child's life can be taken is in the context of our long tradition of self-defense, meaning that, yes, an expectant mother can protect her own life against even her own unborn child, but we cannot have abortion on demand or whim or because we think the child is going to be less than perfect.

I thank you for your prayers in my behalf and for your support. I hope that I have cleared the air on this subject now because I would like to feel that I did have your continued approval.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Ronald Reagan

Mrs. Marie Craven
Chicago, Illinois

Reagan's run-in with the Right-to-Lifers

WASHINGTON—In an angry defense of his Supreme Court nomination of Judge Sandra Day O'Connor, President Reagan has charged the past president of the National Right-to-Life Committee with having "something of a record of being vindictive." The unusual personal attack



Patrick
Buchanan

I have not changed my position. I do not think I have broken my pledge. Mrs. O'Connor has assured me of

her personal abhorrence for abortion. She has explained, as her attacker did not explain, the so-called vote against preventing university hospitals in Arizona from performing abortions."

The "attacker," Dr. Caroline F. Gerster, an Arizona physician and for 10 years a leader in the Right-to-Life movement, is a longtime acquaintance of Judge O'Connor's and claims to have been in an "adversary position" while the latter was Republican leader in the Arizona Senate in the mid-'70s. Dr. Gerster is a prime mover in the campaign to effect withdrawal of the O'Connor nomination.

WHAT TRIGGERED the attack, unprecedented for the President, was a six-page letter from Mrs. Craven, asserting that Mr. Reagan—with the O'Connor nomination—had broken his platform pledge to nominate pro-life judges and justices.

On Saturday afternoon, when she received the Reagan letter, Mrs. Craven was "terribly upset." "His blanket statement astonishes me . . . He's trying to blame the whole thing on one person . . . She [Dr. Gerster] is not alone in her objection."

(Ironically, Carolyn Gerster was the movement

leader to whom Candidate Reagan made his personal commitments in a meeting in Rye, N.Y., Jan. 17, 1980. From that meeting, there issued almost universal support from the Right-to-Lifers for Reagan's nomination and election.)

While the President's letter detailed Judge O'Connor's reasons for voting against an amendment to a football stadium bill to outlaw abortions in Arizona university hospitals—she said it was non-germane, therefore, unconstitutional—it did not mention the three O'Connor Senate votes that have caused the Right-to-Lifers the greatest anguish.

The first was a vote that "would remove all legal sanctions against abortions performed by licensed physicians." The second, her co-sponsorship of the Family Planning Act which would have furnished "all medically acceptable family planning methods and information" including "surgical procedures" to anyone regardless of age. The third, her vote against—it carried four-to-two—a memorial to Congress to extend constitutional protections to the unborn—i.e., a Human Life Amendment. According to Mrs. Craven, the President's failure to mention these raises the question as to whether he is fully informed on the O'Connor record.