

Kennedy Wary of Roberts' Civil Rights Record

Bush nominee's papers cast doubts

(AP) - Sen. Edward M. Kennedy said Thursday that documents made public so far indicate the Supreme Court nominee John Roberts holds a "rather cramped view of the Voting Rights Act."

Materials that Roberts drafted while at the Justice Department and White House counsel's office during the Reagan administration "certainly raise some questions in my mind about his commitment" to civil rights, said Kennedy, D-Mass.

President Bush named Roberts to succeed retiring Justice Sandra

Day O'Connor.

A looming point of contention is access to documents from Roberts' services in Republican administrations.

The White House has released documents dating to Roberts' work as a special assistant at the Justice Department early in the Reagan administration. The White House also has pledged to expedite release of records from Roberts' time in the White House counsel's office from 1983 to 1986.

Bush administration officials have said they will refuse to release any of the documents from Roberts' tenure as principal deputy solicitor general during the administration of the first President Bush. Kennedy's office distributed



U.S. Supreme Court nominee John Roberts (left) with Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., outside Nelson's Capitol Hill office.

documents that touched on civil rights cases from two decades ago, when Roberts worked for the

Reagan administration. At the time, Congress was considering an extension of the 1965

Voting Rights Act against the backdrop of a Supreme Court ruling that held that "proof of intent" was needed to demonstrate someone's rights had been violated.

In a draft opinion article, Roberts wrote that the proposal would "not simply extend the existing and effective Voting Rights Act, but would dramatically change it. ... It's not broken so there's no need to fix it."

In another document, Roberts, then working in the White House, wrote that legislation designed to overturn a different Supreme Court ruling would "radically expand the civil rights laws to areas never before considered covered." He recommended against it.

Anti-Meth Law is Approved

Some cold pills will require prescription

(AP) - Taking care of those colds and allergies will become a little more difficult when Oregon's governor approves a bill aimed at lowering the state's amount of methamphetamine labs.

The House on Monday approved a plan to make Oregon the first state in the nation to require a prescription for many cold and allergy medicines. The Senate voted 26-4 to approve the measure, followed by the House vote at 57-2. Soon the bill is expected to reach the desk of Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who supports it.

The legislation would require prescriptions by mid-2006 for medicines containing pseudoephedrine and two similar substances, which are used in such popular medicines as Sudafed, Claritin and Theraflu.

The bill was endorsed despite complaints that it would unfairly burden law-abiding citizens who cannot afford doctor visits.

Oregon is among more than a dozen states that restrict the sale of pseudoephedrine tablets to pharmacies and require that the medications be kept behind the counter. Customers must also show identification.

Reporter Enters Fifth Week in Jail

(AP) - New York Times reporter Judith Miller has entered her fifth week in jail. She was jailed July 6 for civil contempt for refusing to testify to the grand jury investigating the leak of the identity of an undercover CIA officer, Valerie Plame. Prosecutors want Miller to divulge to whom she spoke while doing reporting.

Her attorney, Robert Bennett, said she is doing "OK under the circumstances." "She certainly disagrees with the punishment but feels the principle of protecting the confidentiality of her source is one worth fighting for," she said.

Miller was part of a team of Times reporters that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2002 for coverage of the Middle East after the Sept. 11 attacks. She wrote numerous articles before the U.S. invasion of Iraq linking Saddam Hussein's government to weapons of mass destruction. When no such stockpiles were found, the paper last year ran an extensive editor's note critical of its reporting.

Seven Marines Killed in Iraq Attacks

U.S. death toll passes 1,800

(AP) - The U.S. military said Tuesday that six Marines were killed in action in western Iraq, pushing the death toll for Americans since the start of the war past 1,800. A seventh Marine was killed Monday by a car bomb in Hit, 50 miles southeast of Haditha in the volatile Euphrates River valley.

The six Marines, assigned to Regimental Combat Team-2 of the 2nd Marine Division, died Monday in Haditha, 140 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Insurgents posted handbills in Haditha, claiming to have killed 10 U.S. troops, seizing some of their weapons.

In other violence, a roadside bomb tar-



A U.S. soldier stands guard as U.S. and Iraqi troops look for evidence around a charred U.S. military Humvee that was the target of a roadside attack Tuesday in Baghdad, Iraq. (AP Photo)

getting a U.S. military convoy exploded Tuesday at the entrance to a tunnel in central Baghdad, and at least 29 civilians were wounded, officials said.

U.S. and Iraqi forces placed a security cordon around the area. The U.S. military had no immediate information on casualties.

The bomb left a 3-foot-wide crater in the ground. Charred parts from the armored Humvee littered the site and seven civilian cars were also badly damaged.

U.S. troops took away some items from the damaged armored vehicle, including a helmet and two flak jackets.

Congress Protects Gun Makers with New Law

The U.S. Senate voted Friday against the NAACP and other groups wanting to crack down on gun violence by voting to shield firearms manufacturers, dealers and importers from lawsuits brought by victims of gun crimes.

The 65-31 vote passed a bill that protects the industry from financial claims

and lawsuits.

"This bill says go after the criminal, don't go after the law-abiding gun manufacturer or the law-abiding gun seller," said bill sponsor Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho.

But Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and other opponents said the gun in-

dustry needs no such special protection.

"This bill has one motivation — payback by the Bush administration and the Republican leadership of the Congress to the powerful special interest of the National Rifle Association," Kennedy said.

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