

410

SPECIAL TO: KANSAS CITY STAR

THE ARTICLE BY RAY MORGAN WHICH APPEARED IN THE KANSAS CITY TIMES ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, WHILE OBVIOUSLY INTENDED AS CRITICISM OF ME WAS, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, AN AFFRONT TO JUDGE EARL O'CONNOR.

THIS ARTICLE INFERENTIALLY COMPARED JUDGE O'CONNOR WITH FRANCIS X. MORRISSEY, A 1965 JUDICIAL NOMINEE OF SENATOR KENNEDY, WHOSE WHOLESALE LACK OF QUALIFICATIONS APPALLED THE ORGANIZED BAR, THE SENIOR FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE IN MASSACHUSETTS, AND EVEN THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MORRISSEY'S LEGAL TRAINING HAD CONSISTED OF ONLY THREE MONTHS IN A LAW DEGREE FACTORY WITH ONE DEAN, ONE PROFESSOR AND NO LAW LIBRARY; OTHERWISE, HIS QUALIFICATIONS RELATED SOLELY TO HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH THE KENNEDY FAMILY.

JUDGE O'CONNOR, IN CONTRAST, HAS HAD AN OUTSTANDING LEGAL CAREER. HE WAS AN HONOR STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LAW SCHOOL, MEMBER OF THE LAW REVIEW, AND PRESIDENT OF HIS LEGAL FRATERNITY. HE HAS HAD NEARLY TWENTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN THE KANSAS JUDICIARY; HIS NOMINATION TO THE FEDERAL COURT RECEIVED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FROM KANSAS LAWYERS; HE WAS FOUND TO BE QUALIFIED FOR THE POSITION BY THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION; AND THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE 10TH CIRCUIT U.S. COURT OF APPEALS APPEARED PERSONALLY BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TO SHPPORT HIM. HIS NOMINATION WAS

-2-

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE -- WITHOUT ANY  
RESERVATIONS -- AND RECEIVED UNANIMOUS CONFIRMATION BY THE SENATE.

THE READERS OF THE TIMES AND STAR ARE ENTITLED TO KNOW THAT  
MR. MORGAN HAS OPPOSED JUDGE O'CONNOR SINCE HE WAS FIRST CONSIDERED  
FOR THE FEDERAL BENCH. IN AN EFFORT TO DENY THIS POSITION TO  
JUDGE O'CONNOR, MR. MORGAN HAS WRITTEN A SERIES OF ARTICLES  
CONTAINING NUMEROUS FALST STATEMENTS AND CHARGES AIMED AT ME IN AN  
EFFORT TO DISCREDIT JUDGE O'CONNOR.

JUDGE O'CONNOR HAS NOW BEEN CONFIRMED, SO MR. MORGAN'S  
CONTINUED ATTACKS TAKE ON A NEW DIMENSION OF DISRESPECT FOR A  
DISTINGUISHED JURIST. THIS CONDUCT IS EXTREMELY REGRETTABLE, BUT I  
AM CONFIDENT THE READERS OF THE TIMES AND STAR WILL RECOGNIZE  
MR. MORGAN'S BIAS FOR WHAT IT IS AND THAT JUDGE O'CONNOR WILL PROVE  
TO BE AN OUTSTANDING FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE.