

Chief Justice Rehnquist defends job security for judges

By Gina Holland

WASHINGTON (AP) - Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, ailing from thyroid cancer, defended lifetime appointments for judges as necessary to insulate them from pressures as they deal with politically sensitive issues.

Rehnquist used his year-end report to address concerns about so-called activist judges and Congress' move to strip judges of some of their authority.

The 80-year-old wrote the report from home, where he has been recovering since announcing in October that he has cancer.

Few details have been released about Rehnquist's illness, except that it is being treated with chemotherapy and radiation, a combination commonly used for an aggressive type of cancer. Rehnquist missed arguments in about 25 Supreme Court cases during November and December, but has said that he plans to swear in President Bush on Jan. 20.

The chief justice mentioned his condition only briefly at the close of the 18-page report. "On a personal note, I also want to thank all of those who have sent their good wishes for my speedy recovery," he said.

Rehnquist, who marks his 33rd anniversary on the high court next week, said that there has been "mounting criticism" recently of judges accused of interpreting the law to fit their politics.

Bush and Republican congressional leaders have been particularly outspoken about activist judges, especially those in gay marriage

cases. But Democrats also have also accused conservative judges of stretching the law.

Rehnquist said that judges should not be punished by Congress because of their decisions and that their lifetime tenure protects their independence.

"It is not a perfect system - vacancies do not occur on regular schedules, and judges do not always decide cases the way their ap-

pointers might have anticipated. But for over 200 years it has served our democracy well and ensured a commitment to the rule of law," Rehnquist said.

Speculation has been rampant about when the Supreme Court will have its next vacancy. Generally justices retire in the summer when the court takes a three-month recess, but Rehnquist's health could force him to step aside sooner.



Some of the many children who attended the Kwanzaa Celebration at the Durham Armory.

Rep. Shirley Chisholm

(Continued From Front)

determination and her commitment to justice were an inspiration to a generation," Lee states. "I would never have gotten involved with politics if she had not run for President in 1972."

Lee, elected in 1998, 15 years after Chisholm retired, has since earned her own reputation for courage. In 2001, she was the only member of Congress to vote against a resolution giving President Bush a free hand in reacting militarily to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

It's easy to see why Lee admired Chisholm.

"My greatest political asset, which professional politicians fear, is my mouth, out of which come all kinds of things one shouldn't always discuss for reasons of political expediency," Chisholm said.

A strong supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), she was an outspoken critic of gender bias.

"I've always met more discrimination being a woman than being black," she told the Associated Press shortly before retiring from Congress. "When I ran for president, I met more discrimination as a woman than for being black. Men are men."

Chisholm is being lavishly praised by men and women.

"She ran for the U.S. presidency," recalls Jesse Jackson, who has been both a political insider and outsider. "She had a vision for America. She was acutely aware of the role women had to play. She was from the Caribbean islands, which gave her a sense of worldview. She fought for the Caribbean, for Africa, for those who did not have a voice."

Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga.) called her "one of the founding mothers of the modern-day black political movement."

He explains, "She made it possible, she created the climate for the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Rev. Al Sharpton and all those who will come — men and women from every walk of life — who will run for U.S. president. American politics will always be indebted to Shirley Chisholm for extending its reach beyond the mainstream to include the best and brightest minds among us in the important work of public service."

One long-time public servant, National Urban League President Marc Morial, says: "The life work of Shirley Chisholm made America a better place for all Americans. She remains a beacon for all who believe in the American dream."

TransAfrica President and CEO Bill Fletcher issued a challenge based on her memory. "Ms. Chisholm was an individual who viewed adversity as a challenge, rather than a road block," Fletcher states. "The task of those who admired her work is to emulate it."

In her life after politics, Chisholm was given an endowed teaching chair at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. She taught there for four years before traveling extensively on speaking engagements. In 1993, President Clinton nominated her to become U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica, but she declined because of health problems.

Outgoing Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Elijah Cummings also reflected on Chisholm's impact on the future. "We must



Flu Shots

(Continued From Front)

On December 17, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) expanded the list of priority groups recommended to receive the inactivated influenza vaccine, depending on the availability of vaccines in state or local health jurisdictions. The priority groups were expanded to include the next level of persons at risk for developing complications from influenza or transmitting infection to those at high risk in an effort to ensure that vaccines are distributed this flu season.

Effective January 3, additional priority groups for inactivated influenza vaccine who can receive vaccination include:

- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of persons in high-risk groups (e.g. persons aged greater than 65 years, persons with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart or lung disease, or weakened immune systems because of illness or medication; and children aged less than 2 years; and
- All adults aged 50-64 years.

These additional priority groups may receive influenza vaccination if there are sufficient supplies of vaccine available. The CDC continues to emphasize influenza vaccinations for individuals in the following highest priority groups:

- All children aged 6-23 months;
- Adults aged 65 years and older;
- Persons aged 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
- Women who are or will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- Children aged 6 months-18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
- Healthcare workers involved in direct patient care;
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged less than 6 months;

Individuals in these priority groups who have not yet received influenza vaccination this flu season are strongly encouraged to seek vaccination. Though influenza activity has been low so far this season, it is expected to increase during the weeks ahead. Adequate time remains for persons in these priority groups to receive the benefits of vaccination before influenza begins to circulate in our community.

The vaccine doses will be offered at no charge on an appointment basis until the supply is exhausted. Please contact the DCHD Immunization Clinic at (919) 560-7608 to make an appointment.

The DCHD also has 72 doses of FluMist remaining for healthy persons's protection against the flu. This vaccine contains weakened live flu virus (instead of killed virus in the injectable vaccine) and can be administered only to healthy persons between 5 and 49 years of age.

Persons interested in receiving FluMist should also contact the DCHD Immunization Clinic at 560-7608 to make an appointment. FluMist will be offered at no charge as long as the supply lasts.

or individuals who cannot get the influenza vaccine this flu season, there are several tips to remember in order to prevent getting infection. Individuals are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; to wash their hands often or to use alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers; to avoid close contact with people who are sick, and if possible, to stay home from work, school and play when sick with an illness. Taking these actions can prevent the spread of influenza in our community.

or the latest information regarding vaccine availability, please contact DCHD Flu Shot Information Line at 560-7378. For individual health related questions, please contact your primary health care provider.

City of Durham Weekly Calendar

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CITY OF MEDICINE

WEEKLY CALENDAR
JANUARY 10, 2005 - JANUARY 14, 2005

Durham City Council meets regularly on the first and third Monday of the month in the Council Chambers on the first floor of City Hall at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and aired live on cable channel 8.

City Government meetings scheduled during the next week include the following:

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2005
8:00 a.m. **Managed Competition Citizens Committee**
(Conference Room A/Ground Floor/City Hall)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2005
9:00 a.m. **Joint City-County Committee**
(County Government Administrative Complex/200 E. Main Street 2nd Floor/County Commissioners Conference Room)

10:00 a.m. **Careers in Hospitality of the Workforce Development Board**
(Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau/101 E. Morgan Street)

12:00 noon **Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities**
(Council Chambers/1st Floor/City Hall)

5:30 p.m. **Durham Planning Commission**
(Council Chambers/1st Floor/City Hall)

7:00 p.m. **Trails Committee of the Durham Open Space & Trails Commission**
(Conference Room B/Ground Floor/City Hall)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005
9:00 a.m. **Transportation Advisory Committee**
(Committee Room/2nd Floor/City Hall)

12:00 noon **Recreation Advisory Committee**
(Parks & Recreation Dept./400 Cleveland Street)

12:00 noon **Equal Business Opportunity Program Advisory Committee**
(Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance Department/ 211 Rigsbee Avenue)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2005
8:00 a.m. **Landscape Committee of the City-County Appearance Commission**
(Mad Hatter Restaurant/1802 W. Main Street)

8:30 a.m. **Special City Council Meeting**
Subject: New City manager search and any other matters that may come before the City Council
(Committee Room/2nd Floor/City Hall)

11:00 a.m. **Durham Civic Center Authority**
(Clerk's Conference Room/2nd Floor/City Hall)

3:00 p.m. **Priority III Committee of the Workforce Development Board**
(CCB Bank Building/111 Corcoran Street)

6:30 p.m. **City Manager Candidates Public Forum**
(Council Chambers/1st Floor/City Hall)

7:00 p.m. **Lyon Park Advisory Board**
(Community Family Life & Recreation Center At Lyon Park/Conference Room/1313 Halley Street)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2005
NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED

All meetings are held in City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza, unless otherwise indicated. Additional meetings may be scheduled after this list is submitted for publication. Free parking is available during the Council Meeting in the Chapel Hill Street Parking Garage, located across Mangum Street from City Hall.

Any citizen wishing to be heard on agenda matters should call the City Clerk's Office at 560-4166 to place your name on the Speaker's List. Interpreters for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired or a need for an assistive device may be available by giving a 48-hours notice. Please call the ADA Coordinator at 560-4410.

City news-casts:
Can't make the Monday night City Council meetings? Tune into 'Council Chambers' on 620 DNC Radio at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings following Council meetings as Council Members join the *Durham Today Morning Show* with News Director John Wood to share meeting highlights.

To learn more about current City of Durham issues and upcoming events watch *CityLife* on Time Warner Cable channel 8. *CityLife* airs Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 9 p.m. Citizen input and questions are invited.

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