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The Municipal Court
SAN DIEGO JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101
HON. JUDITH N. KEEP, JUDGE

SAN DIEGO, CA 921
P.M.
20 AUG
1980

Hon. Earl Gilliam
c/o San Diego Superior Ct.
220 W Broadway
San Diego, Cal
92101

279403

The Municipal Court
SAN DIEGO JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
220 W. BROADWAY
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

CHAMBERS OF
JUDITH N. KEEP, JUDGE

Dear Earl,

Can't wait to have you join us! I am just delighted for you that this long ordeal is finally over. You will make a wonderful addition to the Federal Court. Please let me know (Now that I am a seasoned veteran of 5 weeks) if there is anything which I can do to help.

Warm regards,

Judy

92365
KEEP, HON. JUDITH N.
940 FRONT ST., RM. #6
SAN DIEGO, CA 92189

iego Daily Transcript
AND THE DAILY TRANSCRIPT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1980 (25 CENTS PER COPY) 861 SIXTH AVENUE — (714-232-4381)

yesterday held a 35-year-old convicted

Judge —

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charging Republicans with racism, but Hunter, a local attorney, says his quiet support did more to break the committee's deadlock.

Hunter says he enlisted support for Gilliam, Hunter's former law school professor, from House minority leader John Rhodes at a recent campaign luncheon. Rhodes in turn contacted Senate minority leader Howard Baker, who promised his support for the nomination, according to Hunter.

At noon yesterday Rhodes called Hunter and said the nomination had been approved.

Gilliam, 49, was nominated for the

JUDGE GILLIAM

judgeship by Sen. Alan Cranston, who also recommended then-Municipal Court Judge Judith Keep for the federal judgeship she now holds.

He was appointed to the Municipal Court in 1963 by then-Gov. Edmund G. (Pat) Brown. Gilliam also broke new ground then as San Diego County's first black judge. He was elevated to the Superior Court in 1975 by the current governor.

Gilliam contends that he is not preturbed by the long delay. "It's a lifetime appointment. I can afford to wait."

Gilliam Is Confirmed As Federal Judge in Surprise Voice Vote

By ROY SCHNEIDER
SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT Staff Writer

After being stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee for 14 months, the nomination to the federal bench of Superior Court Judge Earl Gilliam was confirmed yesterday by a surprise voice vote of the full U.S. Senate.

"I'm just happy and thrilled, both for myself and the people of San Diego," said an elated Gilliam, who first heard the news from a reporter before getting official word from Washington.

The approved nomination makes Gilliam the first black U.S. District Judge in San Diego's history and follows by just one week the swearing in of San Diego's first female federal judge, Judith Keep.

Gilliam's nomination caused a storm of controversy after it stalled in the 17-member judiciary committee. The committee's Republican members delayed the nomination for months, saying "serious allegations" against Gilliam had come to light during outine FBI and committee checks of his background. No specifics of those allegations were ever released.

Gilliam, a Democrat, scoffed at the sudden allegations, which he said he knew nothing about, saying it was just a political ploy. He remained at least publicly confident of final approval by the Senate.

Local black leaders took the delay action more seriously, accusing the Republicans of racism. Several Democrats charged that the nomination was being delayed as Republicans waited for a possible Republican administration to enter the White House in January.

Apparently, the first person in San Diego to learn of Gilliam's confirmation was Duncan Hunter, the Republican challenging Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin for the 42nd Congressional District seat.

Van Deerlin was one of those

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