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Hon. Earl Gilliam
Judge of the Superior Court
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

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August 7, 1980

Hon. Earl Gilliam
Judge of the superior Court
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Earl:

God bless. God bless. God bless!

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. COATES

RCC/pb
Enclosure

EDITORIALS

The San Diego Union

112th YEAR

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 31, 1980

LOCAL NEWS

PAGE B-1

Panel Finally Approves Gilliam For U.S. Bench

Copley News Service

WASHINGTON — More than a year after he first was recommended for the post, the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday approved the nomination of San Diego Superior Court Judge Earl B. Gilliam to the U.S. District Court in San Diego.

The committee's action was by unanimous voice vote and there was no debate.

The nomination next goes to the full Senate for a final confirmation vote, expected to be routine. Committee officials said a vote likely would occur before the Senate begins its August recess next Wednesday.

Once confirmed, Gilliam need only arrange for his own swearing-in before taking his seat on the federal bench.

It has been 14 months since Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., announced he had recommended that President Carter nominate Gilliam, which Mr. Carter did in early December.

Gilliam's approval by the Judiciary Committee was delayed by Republican committee members who sought more time to investigate allegations concerning Gilliam's personal life that they said could reflect adversely on his suitability to be a federal judge.

The allegations never have been made public by the committee or Gilliam.

They were investigated by the FBI in its routine check that is made of all judicial nominees, and by the Judiciary Committee's Democratic staff. No grounds to oppose the nomination were found.

However, the committee Republicans directed their staff investigator, Robert J. Short, to pursue the matter. They obtained postponements of full committee action on Gilliam to give Short sufficient time.

Short yesterday said his investigation of the allegations turned up nothing to justify continued Republican opposition.

"We resolved the issues" that had concerned the Republicans, he said. Short added that his investigation consisted primarily of "just talking to some people." He said he never went to San Diego as he originally said he intended and he refused to say whom he talked to.

Short also declined to reveal the allegations against Gilliam.

Gilliam, 48, is a graduate of Hastings College of Law. He was appointed to the San Diego Municipal Court in 1963 by then Gov. Edmund G. (Pat) Brown and then to the Superior Court in 1975 by incument Gov. Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr.

"I'm happy, thrilled and appreciative of the support given me by my family and friends and the people of San Diego who said never give up the faith," Gilliam said, adding that "It's not over yet," referring to required action by the full Senate.

Gilliam said he still was puzzled over the delay at the committee level.

"They still haven't told me what was holding up the committee action." *(Mitch Himaka, staff writer for The San Diego Union, also contributed to this story.)*

JUDGE GILLIAM