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UPI STAT

17 May 80

AM-APPOINT 5-17

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN BURGER SATURDAY NAMED A GEORGIA FEDERAL JUDGE TO THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT, WHICH CONSIDERS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS FOR ELECTRONIC SPYING INVOLVING FOREIGN MATTERS.

JUDGE WILLIAM O'KELLEY, 50, OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, WAS APPOINTED TO A SEVEN-YEAR TERM. HE REPLACES U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE THOMAS MACBRIDE OF CALIFORNIA.

THE COURT WAS CREATED UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACT OF 1979 FOLLOWING WATERGATE-ERA REVELATIONS OF DOMESTIC ABUSES OF WIRETAPPING FOR NATIONAL SECURITY PURPOSES. WARRANTS HAVE BEEN REQUIRED FOR ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE IN DOMESTIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR MORE THAN A DECADE.

THE ORIGINAL SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE COURT, ALL FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, WERE APPOINTED BY BURGER ON MAY 18, 1979, TO SERVE STAGGERED TERMS RANGING FROM ONE TO SEVEN YEARS. MACBRIDE SERVED A ONE-YEAR TERM.

DECISIONS OF THE COURT ARE REVIEWED BY THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT OF REVIEW, WHICH IS COMPOSED OF THREE FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES.

THE COURT, WHICH OPERATES IN ALMOST COMPLETE SECRECY, IS PRESIDED OVER BY JUDGE ALBERT BRYAN JR. OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA. IT HAS DRAWN SOME CRITICISM BECAUSE OF REPORTS IT HAS APPROVED EVERY SURVEILLANCE APPLICATION TO COME BEFORE IT.

O'KELLEY, A NATIVE OF ATLANTA, WAS APPOINTED A FEDERAL JUDGE IN OCTOBER 1970. HE LIVES IN NORCROSS, GA., IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER ERNESTINE ALLEN, AND HAS TWO CHILDREN, VIRGINIA LEIGH AND WILLIAM JR.

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