

Author John Cheever, 70, Dies



AP Photo
Cheever in 1979

Ossining, N.Y. (AP) — Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Cheever, 70, acclaimed as the Chekhov of the suburbs for his penetrating tales of commuter-land Americans in five novels and more than 100 short stories, died yesterday after a long bout with cancer.

Frequently at the top of the list when other authors were asked to name their favorite writers, Cheever also was honored for his work with every major American literary prize.

Reviewing "The World of Apples," a 1973 collection of 10 Cheever stories, novelist Larry Woiwode said: "He shares Chekhov's gentility, ingenuous warmth, humor and all-seeing eye for the absurdities of the world and the

A Retrospective, Part II

foibles and weaknesses of humankind."

Cheever received the 1954 Benjamin Franklin Short Story Award for "The Five-Forty Eight" and the 1956 O. Henry award for his story "The Country Husband." His first novel, "The Wapshot Chronicle," received the 1958 National Book Award. Its sequel in 1964, "The Wapshot Scandal," won the prestigious Howells Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

"The Stories of John Cheever," the seventh collection of his short fiction, won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1979. His

latest novel, "Oh What a Paradise It Seems," was on Knopf's 1982 spring list.

Cheever was born May 27, 1912, in Quincy, Mass., the town on which he modeled St. Botolphs, the fictional New England setting of his Wapshot books.

He married Mary M. Winternitz in March, 1941, and they had two sons, Benjamin Hale and Fredrico, and a daughter, Susan. The family moved from lower Manhattan to Cheever country, in Westchester County, in 1951. Ten years later, they settled into a big 18th-Century house in Ossining where they have lived ever since. Cheever is to be buried in the First Parish Cemetery in Norwell, Mass., but exact funeral arrangements were incomplete.

Albany Pact Would Add 98 Judges

By Bradford W. O'Hearn
Newsday Albany Bureau

Albany — After more than a year of trying, legislative leaders and Gov. Hugh Carey said yesterday that they have agreed on a plan to add 98 new judges to help unclog the state's overloaded court system.

"The need for increasing the number of judges within the unified court system has been amply demonstrated," Carey said in announcing the submission of a bill incorporating the agreement. "I am pleased to lend my support to a proposal which will assure the timely addition of much-needed judicial resources," he said.

The additional judgeships would be 27 State Supreme Court judges, 10 County Court, seven Family Court, 11 New York City Civil Court, nine New York City Criminal Court and 34 temporary Court of Claims judges.

Nassau, Suffolk and Queens Counties, which have some of the most crowded court calendars in the state, would get nine of the 27 new State Supreme Court justices. Suffolk also would get four new County Court judges and two new Family Court judges. Five Supreme Court justices would be assigned to the judicial district covering Nassau and Suffolk, and their assignments would be determined by the State Office of Court Administration. However, most of them are expected to be assigned to Suffolk.

In addition to four new Supreme Court justices in Queens, 11 City Civil Court judges and nine City Criminal Court judges, New York City would get 10 new Supreme Court justices.

The governor also would be empowered to appoint 17 additional temporary Court of Claims judges to nine-year terms anywhere in the state. The 17 sitting temporary Court of Claims judges, all of whose terms would have expired by mid-1983, would continue in office until renominated or replaced if they retire.

To give the lame-duck governor added leverage in getting his appointments through the Republican-controlled State Senate, the bill provides that if the Sen-

ate fails to approve any of Carey's appointments, the slots would be abolished.

Forty-one of the judges would be elected in November. The Court of Claims judges would be appointed by the governor, the 12 New York City judges would be appointed in December by the mayor, and the 11 City Civil Court judges would be elected in November.

In Suffolk County, where judges from upstate and Nassau County have been

assigned to help reduce the caseloads, the news of the agreement was welcome. "We are ecstatic about it," said Gustave Fishel III, president of the Suffolk Bar Association. "There is a critical need for them, and while they won't meet our entire need, they are an important first step."

Assemb. Saul Weprin (D-Hollis), chairman of the Assembly's Judiciary Committee, said the agreement came after about six weeks of intensive negotiations.

Pratt OK'd for Appellate Court

By Rita Ciolli

U.S. District Court Judge George C. Pratt, a leading Long Island jurist who became nationally known through presiding in the Abscam trials and the Agent Orange case, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate yesterday as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

The appointment means that Pratt also joins the board of governors of the Second Circuit, which supervises the federal courts in New York, Vermont and Connecticut. Pratt, who will keep his chambers in Uniondale,



George C. Pratt

also becomes the unofficial supervisor of the federal courthouse there.

The judge, who was in Colorado yesterday teaching a seminar on trial techniques, was unavailable for comment.

In his five years as a federal district court judge, Pratt, 53, earned a reputation as a hard worker who demanded the most in ethics, professionalism and scholarship from attorneys who appeared before him. In addition to the Abscam trials and the Agent Orange case, in which thousands of Vietnam Veterans are suing the manufacturers of the defoliant, Pratt also sat in the Island Trees book-banning case, which is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. He was a prime mover in getting the new federal courthouse built in Uniondale.

Pratt's elevation to the appeals court and the semiretired status recently given to District Court Judge Edward Neaher of Garden City create two vacan-

cies on the Eastern District bench.

Pratt's nomination was approved without objection by the Senate after its judiciary committee unanimously approved his nomination on Wednesday evening. Pratt was nominated by President Reagan in April on the recommendation of Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.).

The Syosset resident becomes the only Long Islander on the 11-member court, the busiest in the nation. The federal appeals court in Manhattan, along with the one in Washington, D.C., are considered second only to the U.S. Supreme Court because of their scholarly traditions and the quality of their judges.

In his new job, Pratt can expect to hear approximately 200 appeals a year, according to Steven Flanders, administrator of the appeals court. It also means a \$4,000 raise, to \$74,300 annually.

Franzese Is Jailed on Parole Charge

By Tom Renner

Uniondale — John (Sonny) Franzese, identified by law enforcement officials as the top candidate for boss of the Joseph Colombo crime family, was jailed yesterday on charges he violated his parole by meeting with convicted crime figures.

The charges against Franzese, 63, were considered by police to be a major blow to the already weakened Colombo crime family. Acting Colombo boss Carmine Persico is in jail on parole violation charges, and his brother, Alphonse, has been in hiding for two years since his conviction on federal extortion charges, federal prosecutors said. "There's just no one else around with the leadership qualities of Franzese in that family," a police source said. "This could really hurt the family . . .," the source added.

If Franzese is judged guilty at an upcoming hear-

ing, he could be returned to jail from three months to five years.

The charges of parole violation were disclosed in a press release by Ralph Kistner, deputy chief of the Eastern District's U.S. Probation and Parole Office. Kistner said Franzese, who lives at 47 Shrub Hollow Rd., Roslyn, surrendered to his probation officer, James Stein, at 3 PM in Uniondale. He said the charges against Franzese are the result of two-year investigation by both the FBI's Long Island Organized Crime Squad and the probation office's highly specialized Intensive Supervision Unit, which was responsible for recently jailing Persico on similar charges.

Sources close to the investigation said charges were based on observations of Franzese meeting with Carlo Gambino crime family captain Carmine Lombardozi, 69, now serving a six-month jail term for federal tax evasion, and Robert Cordice, 40, a Colombo family associate with numerous convictions. The meetings took

place in Brooklyn at unidentified restaurants in 1981 and 1982.

Franzese also has been observed by Suffolk police and federal agents at restaurants and discotheques in Suffolk including Raneri's in Smittstown and Les Jardins in West Babylon, but always in the company of his sons, Michael or John Jr., never with known crime figures. Several years ago, Raneri's was the focal point of a loanshark and murder probe by the Queens District Attorney's office involving organized crime figures. The IRS is investigating Les Jardins for allegedly failing to pay taxes on more than \$500,000 in profits since it opened in 1980.

Franzese is being held in the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan pending a preliminary hearing, which must be held within two weeks.

Franzese was paroled in October, 1978, after serving 9 years of a 50-year sentence for bank robbery. His parole was scheduled to end in 2020.