

# Richmond Times - Dispatch

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## Powerful quake shakes San Francisco; 215 are feared killed; freeway collapses

### Bridge across bay damaged

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A catastrophic earthquake rocked Northern California at the evening rush hour yesterday, causing in a section of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, igniting fires and causing widespread damage to buildings. Initial reports said there were about 215 people killed and 400 injured.

The quake registered 6.9 on the Richter scale and was on the San Andreas Fault. It was the second deadliest in the nation's history, exceeded only by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire that destroyed much of the city and killed more than 700 people.

At least 200 people were crushed to death in their cars when a mile-long section of the upper level of Interstate 880, also called the Cypress freeway, in Oakland collapsed onto the lower level, according to Marty Boyer, public information officer for Alameda County. Later, Oakland police said they had found six bodies in the rubble and were still searching, but that the initial estimate might have been high.

"This is just a devastating, terrible, terrible situation beyond everybody's imagination," she said.

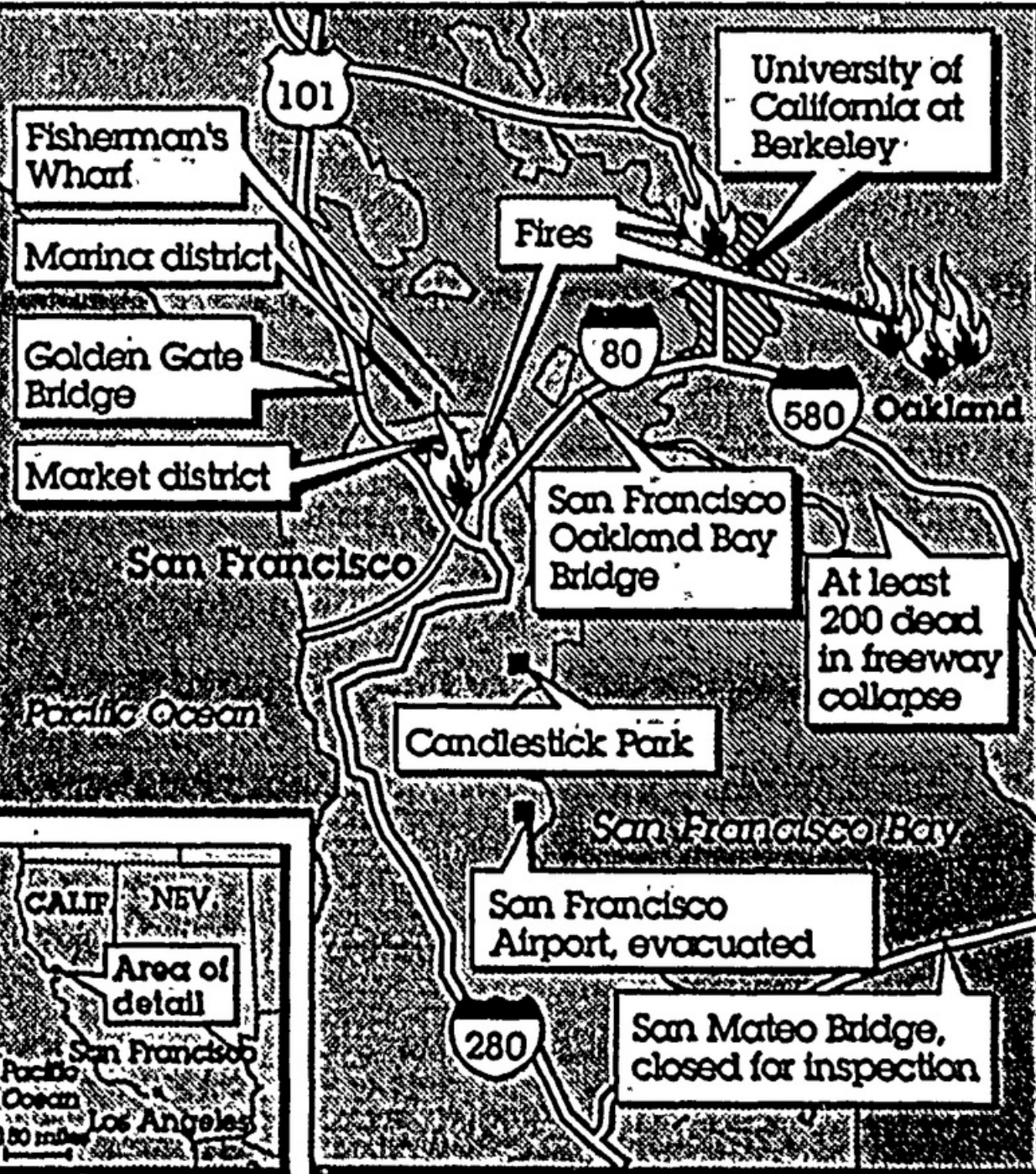
Tom Mullins, spokesman for the California Office of Emergency Services, said preliminary figures indicated at least 400 people had been injured. David Hammons at Kaiser Hospital in Santa Clara, just north of San Jose, said about 100 patients were treated there, mostly injured by falling or being hit by debris.

The earthquake forced the evacuation of 60,000 fans from Candlestick Park where they were waiting for Game Three of the World Series to begin. There were no major injuries reported at the stadium.

Three hours after the 5:04 p.m. quake, the magnitude of the disaster

### Quake damage

Yesterday's earthquake measured 6.9 on the Richter scale, which records ground motion on seismographs. An earthquake of 6 on the scale can cause severe damage. A 7 reading is a major earthquake, capable of widespread heavy damage.



Staff graphic by John G. Ownby

begin to emerge as reports came in of widespread death and destruction. Mullins said Santa Cruz, 75 miles south of San Francisco, had apparently suffered heavy damage and most communications there were knocked out.

San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos said eight deaths had been reported in his city, five from a building collapsing on cars, and three in a fire in the Marina section that blazed spectacularly through much of the evening before being brought under control. He said 12 buildings, all smaller

residential dwellings, were destroyed but there were no reports of major damage in high-rise buildings.

U.S. Gov. Leo McCarthy said he expected states of emergency would be declared in Santa Clara, Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Agnos' press secretary, Eileen Mahoney, said as many as 20 people had been injured at the Marina fire. Another fire damaged a section of downtown Berkeley.

The California Highway Patrol

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### Exodus orderly at stadium

BILL MILLSAPS



SAN FRANCISCO — At first, I thought I was dizzy. Then I realized it wasn't me. It was Candlestick Park.

At 5:04 p.m. yesterday, a huge earthquake struck the bay area of California and shook the site of the scheduled third game of the 1989 World Series.

When the quake began, members of the Oakland A's and San Francisco Giants ran from their dugouts to the baselines. There was a low rumbling noise. The stadium structure swayed. Light towers were waving. In the third auxiliary press box, behind home plate, I had to grab a railing to maintain balance. The press box seemed to shake forward, backward, side to side.

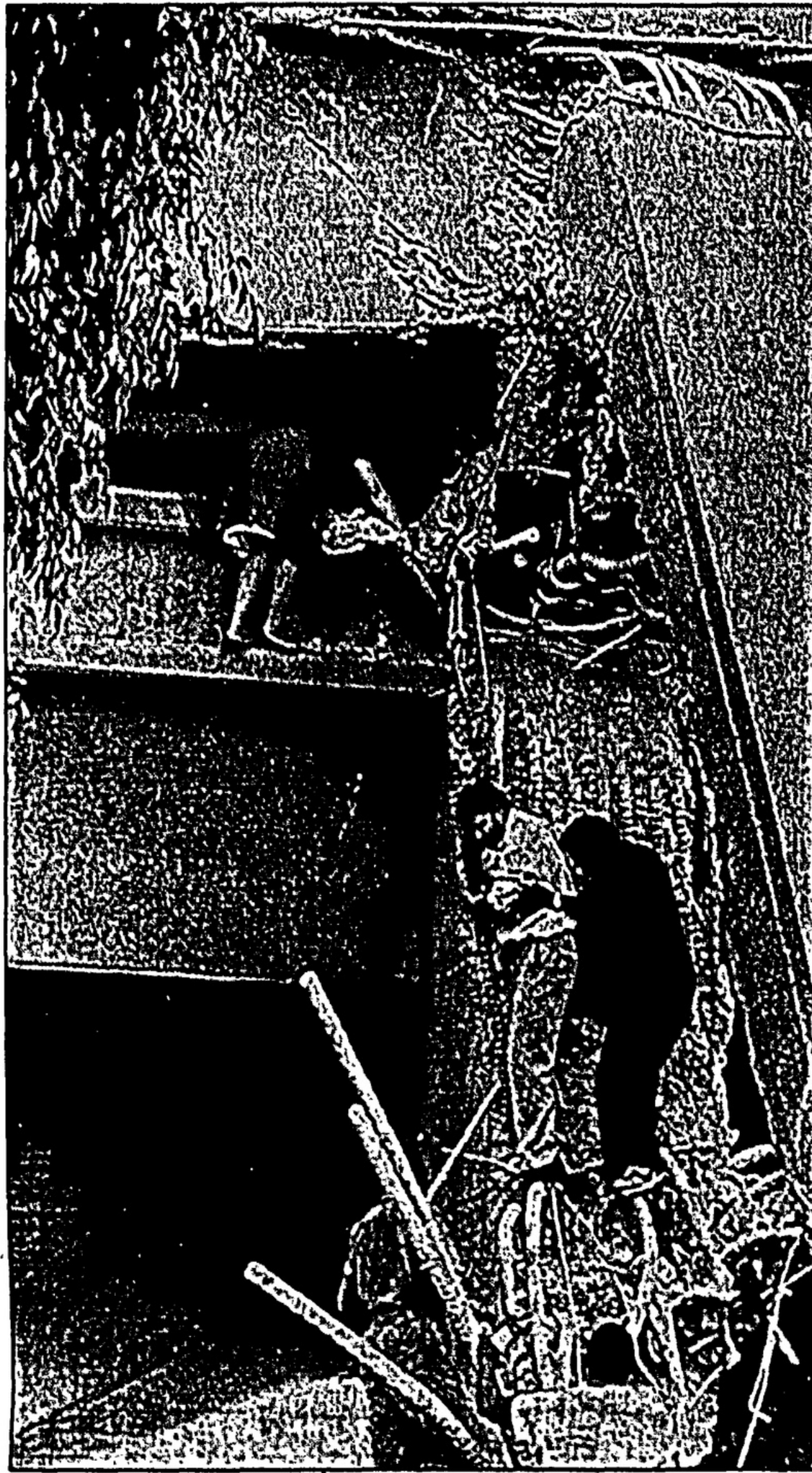
When the 15-second tremor was over, the crowd cheered loudly. The stadium was nearing its 62,000-person capacity.

Power was immediately knocked out. Some spectators started walking from their seats into concourse areas just as thousands of other fans were passing through turnstiles into the stadium. Amazingly, there was no panic evident.

In a few moments, it was apparent the quake was of huge magnitude. There was damage to Candlestick Park, with chunks of concrete flying off upper decks into the parking lots.

People began congregating around fans and reporters who carried radios and TV sets. Though San

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©Oakland Tribune via Associated Press

DESCENT — People climb down a portion of the Cypress Freeway in Oakland that collapsed, killing at least 200.

## Senate panel endorses Smith

By William Ruberry  
Times-Dispatch  
Washington correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Senate Judiciary Committee endorsed U.S. Magistrate Rebecca Beach Smith of Norfolk yesterday to become a federal judge in Virginia.

By voice vote and with no debate, the committee recommended that the full Senate confirm the 40-year-old Hope Smith.

well native as a U.S. District Judge for eastern Virginia. The nomination goes next to the Senate floor, where no obstacle to approval is expected.



Mrs. Smith would be the first woman federal judge in Virginia.

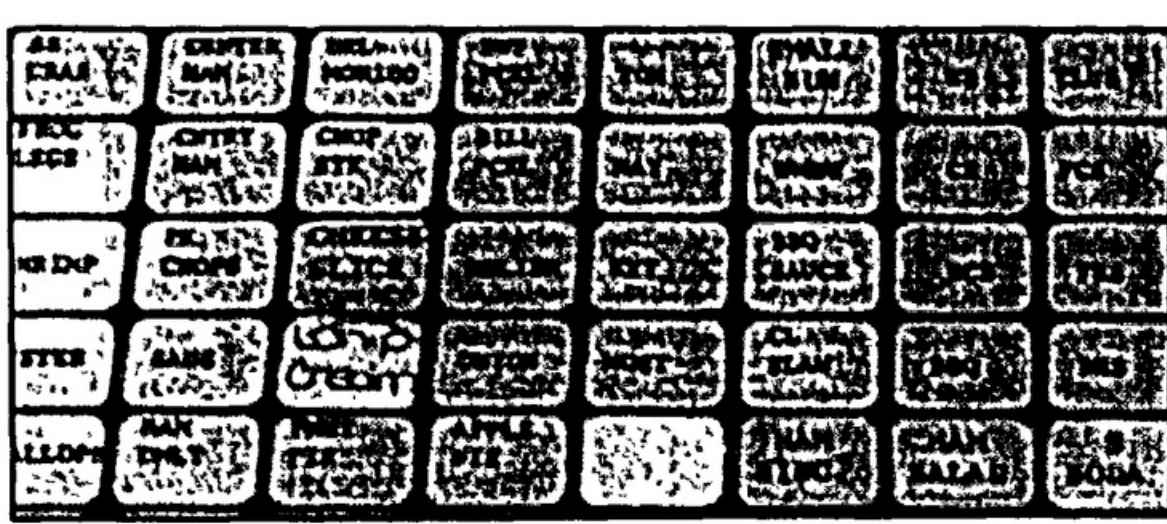
She has declined to comment on the historic nature of her nomination, saying that a statement would be inappropriate while the matter is pending.

When she appeared briefly before the committee last month, Sens. John W. Warner, R-Va., and Charles S. Robb, D-Va., spoke on her behalf.

Robb praised her as the epitome of the "aristocracy of merit" championed by Thomas Jefferson, Founding Father and former president.

Warner told the committee that Mrs. Smith's husband, John, supported her financially while she attended the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. She

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MAY I TAKE YOUR ORDER? — Many restaurants, such as the Virginia Diner, are turning to custom computer keyboards.

### Computers help employers cope

By Betty Booker  
Times-Dispatch staff writer

WAKEFIELD — Nancy Scott's fingers lightly touched the computer keypad at one side of the busy dining room and sent an order: BHS 60 M SODA PNUT PIE VAN IC.

Cooks reading a printed copy in the kitchen fixed a baked ham sandwich with potato chips, a medium Pepsi and peanut pie a la mode.

The veteran waitress carried the lunch to her customer, who took a printed total to a cashier, who verified the order against a computer copy, took money and

### FOCUS

made change.

The Virginia Diner, the Southside bastion of peanuts and ham, has entered the computer age, along with rapidly growing numbers of restaurants and small retailers.

Struggling to cope with a shrinking labor pool and traditionally low wages paid waiters and sales clerks, businesses are turning to computers to help do

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## Two defect, jolt flag amendment

From wire dispatches

WASHINGTON — Sens. John C. Danforth, R-Mo., who confessed a "mistake of the heart," and Warren B. Rudman, R-N.H., repudiated their support yesterday for a constitutional amendment to outlaw desecration of the American flag.

The Senate's Democratic leader said for the first time that it would be defeated.

The two GOP senators, breaking with the majority of Republicans, announced they would vote against the constitutional amendment, even though they were original co-sponsors. The announcements were a stinging setback for the measure strongly backed by President Bush.

The measure would authorize the federal and state governments to

outlaw burning and other desecration of the American flag. It is a response to last spring's Supreme Court decision that flag burning can be considered a protected form of political expression.

Bush and Republican sponsors say a constitutional amendment is the only effective way to protect the flag once and for all.

Critics of the proposed amendment say that it would stifle dissent and place limits on the free speech guaranteed under the Bill of Rights.

Danforth and Rudman joined two other Republicans, Sens. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and Gordon J. Humphrey, R-N.H., in opposition, sharply increasing prospects that the proposed constitutional amendment, which

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### The weather

Occasional rain today with a high near 70. Tonight will have occasional rain with a low in the

lower 50s. Tomorrow there will be a chance of rain with a high temperature in the mid-50s.

### Tomorrow's features

**Lifestyles** ... Thanks to gizmoed, reports of headless giants from outer space landing in the Soviet Union offer a glimpse of Russia's fascination with UFOs, telekinesis and extrasensory perception.

**Metro** ... Twelve years ago, Fannie Williams took over a job her husband had done for 22 years. Today, at age 84, she's still marrying couples in the living room of her East Richmond home.

Virginia's State Newspaper

## Bush said to select Koop's successor

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush has chosen Antonia Novello, a pediatrician and deputy director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, to be surgeon general, administration sources said yesterday.

Dr. Novello was undergoing routine background checks before her formal nomination, said the sources, who spoke only on condition of not being identified.

If nominated by Bush and then confirmed by the Senate, she would succeed C. Everett Koop, the outspoken pediatric surgeon who stepped down last month after serving as surgeon general for

seven years.

Chase Untermeyer, Bush's personnel chief, said "there is a candidate in clearance," but he refused to confirm or deny that the candidate was Dr. Novello.

Her office said she had no comment and declined to provide any background.

According to an industry newsletter, Medicine & Health, she is 44 years old, studied at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine and is a pediatric kidney specialist.

She was recommended to the White House by Louis Sullivan, secretary of the Department of

Health and Human Services, the sources said. Her nomination was pushed by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, the senator's office said.

In addition, she was one of a number of women recommended for the job by President Bush's personal physician, Burton J. Lee III, who said he was knocked out of consideration because his views on abortion are different from Bush's.

Dr. Lee was the first administration official to state publicly that candidates to succeed C. Everett Koop as surgeon general must conform with

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