Developers score in court

"Nothing is to prevent the state from replacing any Motel 6 with a Ritz-Carlton, any home with a shopping mall,"

— Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

"Promoting economic development is a traditional and long-accepted function of government."

— Justice John Paul Stevens

"Public use" can be financial as eminent domain evolves

By Doug Horr, Staff Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court handed local government leaders a victory yesterday, ruling that public agencies can use private property, even land owned by individuals, to promote economic development.

The 5-4 decision in the court's most significant eminent domain case in nearly a half-century, however, adds a new wrinkle in the battle between public and private interests, as the U.S. Supreme Court's decision yesterday involved a plan to build a single apartment building.
Cunningham was saddened by this distinction.

The congressman, a member of the House subcommittee on appropriations, said in an interview that he was not disappointed by the decision to award the Medal of Honor to his son, Michael. "I was disappointed," he said, "but I am not surprised. I knew he was going to be in the Army." Cunningham is from Texas and has been a member of the House for 32 years.

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