



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

# Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

---

<http://finance.senate.gov>

Opening Statement of Chairman Chuck Grassley  
Hearing to Consider Treasury, Commerce Nominations  
Thursday, March 29, 2001

This morning we meet to consider the nominations for three positions with the Department of the Treasury and one position with the Department of Commerce. I believe all four of these nominees are well-qualified for their positions, and I look forward to hearing from them today. We will not be voting on these nominations today, but we will hopefully be voting on them sometime next week.

Our first nomination is Kenneth Dam. Mr. Dam has been nominated for the position of Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. Currently a law professor at the University of Chicago, but he is certainly no stranger to government service. He has worked in the Office of Management and Budget and served as the Executive Director of the Council on Economic Policy. He was also the Deputy Secretary of State from 1980-1985. I want to also welcome Mr. Dam's wife, Marsha, to the hearing.

Next, we will consider the nomination of David Aufhauser to be General Counsel for the Department of Treasury. Mr. Aufhauser has practiced law for 23 years in Washington, D.C., and is currently a partner at Williams & Connolly LLP. Mr. Aufhauser's experience as an attorney litigating criminal and civil trade cases, as well as securities, tax, and federal regulatory matters makes him uniquely qualified for the position of General Counsel.

Mr. Aufhauser is accompanied by his wife, Jane Dana, his three children, David Jr., Katherine and Anne, and his brother, Keith. His former executive assistant, Elizabeth Vannoy, is also here with him today.

Our next nominee is Michele Davis. Ms. Davis has been nominated to the position of Assistant Secretary of Treasury for Public Affairs. Currently, Ms. Davis serves as a consultant to the Treasury Department. Prior to her service in the Executive Branch, she was the Communications Director for House Majority Leader Dick Armey for almost four years. In addition to her public affairs work in the House of Representatives, Ms. Davis had a strong economics background that will serve her well at the Treasury Department. I'd like to also recognize Ms. Davis's mother, Margaret, for being here today.

It is great pleasure for me to have the honor of welcoming our fourth nominee, Faryar Shirzad, to testify before the Committee today. I would also like to take an opportunity to welcome his family. First, we have his wife Nancy Woodward, and son David. Also here with us today are Faryar's parents, Mr. Nasser Shirzad and Mrs. Pari Shirzad. It is great to see you here with us. I

believe Mr. Shirzad is infinitely qualified to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

Mr. Shirzad served the Finance Committee for three years as the International Trade Counsel for the majority under then-Chairman Senator Roth. During that time, Mr. Shirzad was known for his international trade expertise, his fairness, and his deep commitment to doing what is right for the American people. I am confident he will carry that same commitment to public service to the Department of Commerce should he be confirmed.

Again, I'd like to welcome the fine people the Bush administration has nominated, and thank Senator Baucus for working with me to hold this nominations hearing.