

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM R. ALBERGER

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
UNITED STATES SENATE
NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION
ON
THE NOMINATION OF
WILLIAM R. ALBERGER TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

OCTOBER 14, 1977

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NOMINATION OF WILLIAM R. ALBERGER TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1977

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:10 a.m., in room 2221, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Russell B. Long (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Senators Long, Talmadge, Ribicoff, Byrd, Jr., of Virginia, Nelson, Gravel, Bentsen, Hathaway, Haskell, Matsunaga, Moynihan, Curtis, Hansen, Dole, Packwood, Roth, Jr., Laxalt, and Danforth.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

Mr. STERN. Mr. Chairman, while this is being distributed, would you like to take up this one nomination that is still pending in the committee? It is Mr. William Alberger to be a member of the Trade Commission.

Mr. Alberger is here.

The CHAIRMAN. Where is Mr. Alberger?

Mr. ALBERGER. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Alberger, tell us a little about yourself.

Senator PACKWOOD. Could I say a few words before he starts?

Bill Alberger is a close friend of mine. He is from Oregon. He served on my staff for 2½ years before he was spirited away by Congressman Ullman to a higher position. In addition to the extraordinary work that he did for me when he was with me, he was without compare the best infielder the staff has ever had in all of its summers, and if he could only bat lefthanded I would have given him more money. [General laughter.]

But I can't think of anybody that I could laud more highly for this position. I know Bill is interested in foreign trade. His interest was in that subject when he was on my staff. He has done excellent work for Congressman Ullman, and I am just delighted to have the opportunity to speak on his behalf and to have the President nominate him, and I would like, in addition, Mr. Chairman, to have placed in the record a letter, a very laudatory letter from Senator Hatfield, who cannot be here this morning but who wants the record to show the letter.

[The letter referred to follows:]

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, D.C., October 14, 1977.

HON. BOB PACKWOOD,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR BOB: Due to prior commitments, I am unable to be present when Bill Alberger is introduced to the Finance Committee as a nominee for a Commissioner of the International Trade Commission. I would appreciate it if you would add my endorsement of his nomination during the nomination hearing.

I have known Bill since he came to Washington, and have recognized his abilities in numerous areas. We both know of the good work he has done on projects in which we have had a mutual interest while Bill has been on the staff of Congressman Ullman.

Interest in the International Trade Commission has increased greatly in the past year or so. I am pleased the President has nominated an Oregonian to serve on the ITC, and I know Bill will serve with distinction.

Thank you for making my letter a part of Bill's confirmation hearing.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely,

MARK O. HATFIELD,
U.S. Senate.

The CHAIRMAN. My view of the International Trade Commission, and I think the majority of us here agree, is that we want to stress that that Commission is not an executive commission. What is your view of the responsibility of the Commission?

Who is the Commission supposed to be working for and reporting to, Mr. Alberger?

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM R. ALBERGER

Mr. ALBERGER. Well, the Commission, of course, was set up by the Congress, and is primarily a factfinding arm of the Congress, and also serves in a judicial role in certain unfair trade practice cases.

The Commission's primary responsibility is to the Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. We want to work with the executive branch. But there are some of us who in years gone by became very concerned and very upset about the executive branch, particularly about those in the State Department who have sought to go through the White House to dictate the judgments of the Commission. We insist that it should be an independent, factfinding commission, and it ought to keep in mind the law passed by Congress establishing the Commission and seek to carry out the intent of Congress as expressed in that law.

Now, you have served on the Ways and Means Committee staff, have you not?

Mr. ALBERGER. Yes; I have.

The CHAIRMAN. And you are familiar with the point of view of those of us who feel that when the Congress passed the statute, we spelled out in the statute what we expected the Commission to do, and we expect it to do that and to be independent.

Mr. ALBERGER. I certainly intend to follow that.

The CHAIRMAN. You have been associated with some very good people, working with Mr. Ullman and Senator Packwood.

How did you become so bipartisan?

Mr. ALBERGER. Well, I suppose it is because I am from Oregon and was a long-time friend of Senator Packwood's administrative assistant. When I first came back here and entered law school, they were kind enough to give me a good position in the office.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Any questions, gentlemen?

Thank you very much, sir.

Senator DOLE. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Dole?

Senator DOLE. Are you familiar with the action taken by the Trade Commission with reference to sugar?

Mr. ALBERGER. I have read the news accounts of it, yes.

Senator DOLE. Well, it probably wouldn't be in your scope, but there was a finding made by the Commission regarding sugar. I am considering sending a resolution to the floor very soon to override the President's decision because we can't get this administration to implement the sugar program. This doesn't fall within your jurisdiction, but for some strange reason we can't get any relief for the beet and cane producers in this country, even though, I think, the Trade Commission's findings were accurate. I assume that is a responsibility you will continue to have.

Mr. ALBERGER. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. ALBERGER. Thank you.

Senator PACKWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee approve the nomination of Mr. Alberger to the International Trade Commission.

The CHAIRMAN. All in favor say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

The CHAIRMAN. Opposed, no.

[No response.]

The CHAIRMAN. The ayes have it.

[The biographical data of Mr. Alberger follows:]

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON WILLIAM R. ALBERGER

Legal residence: Portland, Oregon. Born October 11, 1945, Portland. Married. Local Address: 804 S. Quincy St., Arlington, Virginia 22204.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor (concentration in international law), Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C., February 1973.

Masters degree in Business Administration, University of Iowa, Iowa City, January, 1971.

Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon, May, 1967.

EXPERIENCE

Administrative Assistant to House Committee on Ways and Means, March 1977 to present.

Administrative Assistant to U.S. Representative Al Ullman of Oregon, February 1975-March 1977.

Legislative Assistant to U.S. Representative Al Ullman, March 1972-February 1975.

Special Assistant to U.S. Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon, part-time while attending law school, September 1969-December 1971.

Administrative Assistant to Dean of Graduate School, University of Iowa, 1967-69. Duties. Managing Fulbright Conferences for Foreign Professors; assisting with research grant applications, statistical analyses.

Actuarial Science Trainee, Standard Insurance Company, Portland, Oregon, summers and vacations, 1964-68.

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

Member, District of Columbia Bar.

Member, American Bar Association.

Proposed and outlined a new course on international human rights at the Georgetown University Law Center; course added to curriculum in 1972.

Named Outstanding Sigma Chi Man, Northwest Province, 1967.

Elected Willamette University Student Body President 1966-67; First Vice President 1965-66. Member of Phi Eta Sigma, freshman scholastic honorary; Omicron Delta Kappa, upperclass leadership and scholastic honorary; Varsity Rally Squad.

[Whereupon, at 10:15 a.m., the committee proceeded to the consideration of other matters.]