

**NOMINATION OF ALIXE REED GLEN AND
MARY CATHERINE SOPHOS**

HEARING

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
UNITED STATES SENATE**

ONE HUNDRED SECOND CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON THE

NOMINATION OF

**ALIXE REED GLEN TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES AND MARY CATHERINE SOPHOS TO BE A DEPUTY
UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

JUNE 13, 1991



Printed for the use of the Committee on Finance

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1991

45-013

5361-44.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

LLOYD BENTSEN, Texas, *Chairman*

DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, New York	BOB PACKWOOD, Oregon
MAX BAUCUS, Montana	BOB DOLE, Kansas
DAVID L. BOREN, Oklahoma	WILLIAM V. ROTH, Jr., Delaware
BILL BRADLEY, New Jersey	JOHN C. DANFORTH, Missouri
GEORGE J. MITCHELL, Maine	JOHN H. CHAFEE, Rhode Island
DAVID PRYOR, Arkansas	DAVID DURENBERGER, Minnesota
DONALD W. RIEGLE, Jr., Michigan	STEVE SYMMS, Idaho
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, West Virginia	CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Iowa
TOM DASCHLE, South Dakota	
JOHN BREAUX, Louisiana	

VANDA B. MCMURTRY, *Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

EDMUND J. MIHALSKI, *Minority Chief of Staff*

CONTENTS

OPENING STATEMENT

	Page
Bentsen, Hon. Lloyd, a U.S. Senator from Texas, chairman, Senate Finance Committee	1

COMMITTEE PRESS RELEASE

Social Security Status, Earnings Test Proposals to be Marked Up, Committee Also to Consider HHS, Treasury Nominees.....	1
---	---

ADMINISTRATION NOMINEES

Sophos, Mary C., nominee for Under Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs.....	3
Glen, Alixe Reed, nominee for Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services	6

CONGRESSIONAL WITNESS

Archer, Hon. Bill, a U.S. Representative from Texas.....	2
--	---

ALPHABETICAL LISTING AND APPENDIX MATERIAL SUBMITTED

Archer, Hon. Bill:	
Testimony	2
Bentsen, Hon. Lloyd:	
Opening statement.....	1
Glen, Alixe Reed:	
Testimony	6
Prepared statement	15
Biographical	16
Sophos, Mary C.:	
Testimony	3
Prepared statement	17
Biographical	17

NOMINATION OF ALIXE REED GLEN TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND MARY CATHERINE SOPHOS TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1991

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, -
U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at 10:04 a.m. in room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Lloyd Bentsen (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Also present: Senators Packwood and Riegle.

[The press release announcing the hearing follows:]

[Press Release No. 9, June 10, 1991]

SOCIAL SECURITY STATUS, EARNINGS TEST PROPOSALS TO BE MARKED UP, COMMITTEE ALSO TO CONSIDER HHS, TREASURY NOMINEES

WASHINGTON, DC—Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, announced Monday that the Committee will markup legislation to make the Social Security Administration an independent agency and liberalize the Social Security earnings test.

Bentsen (D., Texas) said the Committee also will hold a hearing and markup of nominations for the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Treasury.

The meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 13, 1991, in Room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The legislation would make the Social Security Administration an independent agency in the executive branch. The agency would administer the Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs.

The earnings test proposal would work this way: In 1991, Social Security beneficiaries age 65 to 69 earning more than \$9,720 have their benefits reduced by \$1 for each \$3 of earned income. This proposal would gradually raise the earnings limit, with no loss of benefits, beginning in 1992. The earnings limit, which under current law would be \$10,200, would increase to \$12,000 for 1992; by 1996, the earnings limit would increase from \$12,600 to \$25,200.

The nominees are Alixe Glen, former Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary at the White House, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Public Affairs, and Mary Catherine Sophos, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury (Legislative Affairs).

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. LLOYD BENTSEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS, CHAIRMAN, SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN. This hearing will come to order.

The chairman will not be able to stay for the full hearing because of other commitments that are unavoidable.

Our first nominee will be Mary Catherine Sophos, who has been chosen by the President to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury. She has been designated by the President as the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs. The Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs is the chief liaison between the Treasury Department and the Congress. Her job will be to keep this committee apprised of the administration's position on legislative issues before the Congress.

She will also be responsible for guiding members and their staffs through the bureaucracy of the Treasury Department.

She has been serving as Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs since January of this year. She was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs from 1989 through 1991. She has also had experience in the Congress working for Congressman Tom Loeffler and for the House Ways and Means Committee. So she is intimately familiar with the workings of the legislative process and of the Treasury Department. We will be looking forward to her effectively applying that experience in her new duties at the Treasury Department.

I defer to my colleague, the ranking minority member, Senator Packwood, for any opening comments he might have.

Senator PACKWOOD. I have no opening statement, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. We are very delighted to have the senior and very distinguished member of the Texas delegation, my good friend, Congressman Archer, to make the introduction. We are please to have you, Congressman.

STATEMENT OF HON. BILL ARCHER, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS

Representative ARCHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Senator Packwood. I am honored and privileged to be here today to introduce Mary Sophos about whom you have given a very nice synopsis.

One of the wonderful aspects of this job is to witness young people as they come along, and pursue their careers and move up the ladder and prove to be dynamic leaders for this country. And Mary Sophos is one of those people.

As you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, she did serve for 4 years with my friend and our colleague, Tom Loeffler, from Texas. We were able to entreat her to come over and serve on the Ways and Means Committee staff. And from there, as a result of high recommendations by the members of our committee, she did go over to the Treasury Department. And as all of us know, she has done a truly outstanding job as Deputy Assistant Secretary. And I particularly want to highlight the tremendous assistance that she provided to the members of the Ways and Means Committee throughout our consideration of FIRREA. Her expertise on the Federal budget—when she was on our minority staff she specialized in budgetary activities—and her expertise on banking issues helped guide us through a very difficult decisionmaking process.

She is someone who is intelligent, articulate, cooperative, has a marvelous sense of humor and warmth. I think she is going to do an outstanding job for the Secretary, for the President, for this committee, for our committee, and for the country. And so I am very, very pleased to sit hear beside her and to highly recommend her for confirmation.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Congressman Archer.

I know you have other responsibilities, you may leave, but if you would like to stay we leave it at your choice.

Representative ARCHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I have to leave for another meeting. Would you take over, please, Senator Riegle?

Senator RIEGLE. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Sophos, let me ask you, do you have any members of your family here, others that are accompanying you, that you want to introduce to the committee at this time?

Ms. SOPHOS. Yes, I do, Senator Riegle. I would like to introduce my mother and father, Helen and Alzo, who are sitting behind me. They have come back from California to be here for this hearing today.

Senator RIEGLE. Well, we welcome them, and we are delighted that they are able to be here on such a special day for you and for your family.

Let me invite you now to make any other comments that you want to make in the way of a statement in your own behalf.

STATEMENT OF MARY C. SOPHOS, NOMINEE FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Ms. SOPHOS. Thank you, Senator, and members of the committee.

I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Bush for this position and I am very grateful to Secretary Brady for recommending me to the President.

- If I am confirmed by the Senate, I hope to carry out my responsibilities in a manner which justifies the trust and confidence that they have placed in me.

It is an honor as well to appear before this committee, and I greatly appreciate the expeditious scheduling of this hearing given the press of business before the committee at this time.

This committee, the Congress, and the administration face serious issues and challenges in addressing the Nation's problems. An important part of my role will be to faithfully represent the views of the administration, and equally important, to honestly communicate your views to the Treasury.

I believe that my background and experience, spanning over 10 years in both the legislative and executive branch, will stand me in good stead in the performance of my duties. In addition, since January, I have served as Acting Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs, and during the previous 2 years, held the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary for House liaison at Treasury.

Finally, I greatly appreciate this opportunity to provide a service to my country, and if I am confirmed, will do so to the best of my abilities.

I would be happy to respond to your questions at this time.

Senator RIEGLE. Well, thank you for those opening comments.

You have worked in congressional relations now for the Treasury Department. From that experience, do you have any recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Office of Legislative Affairs?

Ms. SOPHOS. Well, I believe that the most important thing that any Office of Legislative Affairs can do is to honestly represent the views of the administration, to communicate the views of the Congress to the administration, and to try and perceive solutions to mutual problems.

I think that we are always striving to do better in the Office of Legislative Affairs. And I would always welcome any suggestions that you might have as to how we might do a better job.

Senator RIEGLE. Well, as I am sure you well know, and from your past experience on FIRREA, those of us that also serve on the Banking Committee are very interested in having the best possible working relationship with the Treasury Department. And we have had to have such a relationship in developing the FIRREA legislation. Of course, we are now on to the matter of changes in the banking system, and deposit insurance reform, and so forth.

I think my observation would be, based on my own experience, that one of the most important services you can perform for the administration is to take back to the administration as fully as one can the points of view and the thoughts here, as well as conveying the administration's point of view to us. I think sometimes what tends to happen is that we hear a lot but we are not heard a lot. And that can be a real problem.

And so you have been on the Hill, so you understand it from this side of the table. I would hope that you could help make sure that people there are able to hear as well as speak.

Ms. SOPHOS. Senator, I would be happy to do what I can to improve the communications process. And I understand what you are saying and hope we can work together to make sure that that happens.

Senator RIEGLE. Let me also indicate that Speaker Foley has communicated to the committee his support of your nomination and wanted that to be known as part of the record, and so let it be so noted.

From 1987 to 1989, you were the Director of Government Relations for the Washington firm of McCamish, Martin, Brown & Loeffler. Will any of your lobbying activities on behalf of that firm's clients pose any potential conflicts of interest in carrying out your duties as the Assistant Secretary?

Ms. SOPHOS. At this time, I do not see any potential for conflict of interest. If such a situation were to arise, I would, after consultation with our general counsel, take appropriate steps to recuse myself from those issues which might create a conflict of interest.

Senator RIEGLE. Who would some of those clients be, by the way, that you would have had lobbying activities on behalf of in that earlier time frame.

Ms. SOPHOS. Some of the principal clients on whose behalf I worked included USAA, United States Automobile Association, the

Guadeloupe-Blanco River Authority, and Central and Southwest Corp.

Senator RIEGLE. I see.

Traditionally, the Treasury Department's role has been to identify loopholes in the Federal income tax laws. An activist role by the Treasury Department is essential to preventing taxpayers from manipulating the tax system to avoid paying taxes. But the Treasury has not submitted any loophole closures to this committee. Can you tell us where the Treasury's proposals are and when we are going to get them?

Ms. SOPHOS. Well, I think that a number of loopholes in the Tax Code have been addressed in previous years in the Tax Reform Act and in subsequent legislation. This year, the Congress has asked for—or actually it was last year, I believe—suggestions from the Treasury Department relative to measures which might simplify the Tax Code, and we have provided to the Congress suggestions for that effort. And I understand there may be legislation in the works to try and simplify and streamline the Tax Code, Senator. Other than that, we do not have any specific proposals at this time.

Senator RIEGLE. Well, I just say for the Chairman, I know that Chairman Bentsen is concerned that the Treasury is not moving ahead in this area, and I share that concern. So put that in the category of something to take back and register at the other end if you would because I think some acceleration of effort is needed in that area.

Ms. SOPHOS. I will communicate that. Thanks.

Senator RIEGLE. Senator Packwood.

Senator PACKWOOD. Mr. Chairman, Ms. Sophos and I do not know each other too well. We had some contact in the budget summit last year and I was very impressed with her skills.

Ms. SOPHOS. Thank you, Senator.

Senator PACKWOOD. I would hope we would have a chance to exercise those skills further. I have no questions.

Senator RIEGLE. I hope too that as you make the rounds to get acquainted with everyone that are sort of principal contact points—there was a reference earlier of your having a great sense of humor. I have been looking for someone to go into the Treasury Department that has a great sense of humor. [Laughter.]

Ms. SOPHOS. I will have to spend a little more time up here.

Senator RIEGLE. So anyway, any time that you are feeling particularly humorous, please stop by my office. I could use a little humor.

Ms. SOPHOS. I would be happy to.

Senator RIEGLE. I think we may have additional questions to give you for the record. If so, we will get those to you promptly. But we appreciate your appearance today and what you have said to us. And I think that will complete our need to question you at this time.

Ms. SOPHOS. Thank you very much.

Senator RIEGLE. Very good. Let me excuse you now.

Let me invite Ms. Alixe Glen to come forward now and be seated. We are pleased to have you. Let me just provide some background with respect to your nomination. You have been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary for Health and Human Services for Public

Affairs, and in that capacity to act as the Secretary of Health and Human Services' principal public affairs policy advisor.

Ms. Glen, as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, your task would be to serve as the Secretary's principal advisor and liaison for public affairs activities. You will also be responsible for administering the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, and other information access, statutes, as you know.

I have noticed from your resume that during your career you have been associated with both government and private enterprise, including extensive experience working for the White House. And I would expect that your past experiences will serve you well in your new role as Assistant Secretary.

Ms. Glen, given the nature of your new position, I do not expect that you have had many opportunities to work with this committee before, but you certainly will in the future. And, therefore, we want to extend a welcome to you today, and I do so in behalf of the chairman. And we look forward to your testimony. And before we do that, let me invite any comments by Senator Packwood.

Senator PACKWOOD. No questions.

Senator RIEGLE. Let me now ask you, do you have anyone accompanying you today that you would like to introduce to us before you make your statement?

Ms. GLEN. I do have my uncle, the Chief of Protocol, Joseph Reed, and his two daughters, and several colleagues from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Senator RIEGLE. Well, we welcome them, as we do you, and we would like to hear from you now.

STATEMENT OF ALIXE REED GLEN, NOMINEE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Ms. GLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. It is indeed an honor for me to appear before you as President Bush's nominee for Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs of the Department of Health and Human Services.

I would like to thank the President and Secretary Sullivan for their confidence in me.

Mr. Chairman, as one who has pursued careers in both government and journalism, I am well aware of the vital importance of thorough objective information for the proper functioning of a democracy. It has a direct bearing on the nature of public choices and public policy. But information may be no more important than it is in the Health and Human Services area. There it can have a direct impact on a daily basis on the quality of life for each and every one of us. It can help people find the help they need and deserve, and it can also have a fundamental influence—and one hopes a very positive one—on behavioral choices that underlie so many of our health problems today.

Indeed, it cannot be overemphasized that personal behavior and lifestyle choices have very much to do with disease, disabilities and infant mortality in this country. I strongly believe that better dissemination of information about that linkage cannot help but reduce this unfortunate outcome.

If confirmed, my first objective as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs will be to ensure that information emanating from Health and Human Services meets ever higher standards of quality. To begin with, it should be as accurate and objective as possible. Next, it should be sufficiently comprehensive and comprehensible. Third, our information should reach people who need it. Thus, dissemination methods must be sensitive to the ever changing nature of consumer taste and delivery technologies.

With these standards as the foundation, my second goal will be to further enhance Secretary Sullivan's priority of improving the health of America's children, particularly those at high risk because of social economic conditions, and I regret to say widespread ignorance about the influence of behavior on health.

While the Federal Government spends \$8 billion a year on children's health care, government programs alone cannot succeed if parents fail to heed what is known about the importance of pre- and post-natal care. It is our job to help them as well.

Accordingly, I will work to develop culturally relevant information campaigns to reach all members of the American mosaic, to help parents maintain and strengthen the family unit, and to carry out Secretary Sullivan's message of individual and personal responsibility, what he has terms "the culture of character."

Of course, much of the success in that education effort will depend on the energy and creativity of those of us in the Public Affairs Office. Nevertheless, we will be powerless in the absence of help from important public constituencies. Thus, my third objective in the coming weeks and months will be to develop and strengthen partnerships with the business community, the media, and, most importantly, those who roll up their sleeves on the front lines every day. We can, and do, benefit immeasurably from their collective resources, experience and ideas. And I feel they are all eager to be tapped for assistance.

Mr. Chairman, in my previous experience at the White House I have tried my best to provide the American people with a clear and helpful understanding of public policy and the issues involved therein. At Health and Human Services I will be committed to bringing that same standard of service to the Department's mission.

Thank you very much. And I would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.

Senator RIEGLE. Very good. There are several questions that the committee has prepared that I want to take you through. First of all, I understand that you have several common stock holdings which include IBM, Network General, and Universal Corp. Can you tell us what steps you are prepared to take, or take to avoid any possible conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest?

Ms. GLEN. Well, the Ethics Office and Counsel's Office at the Department of Health and Human Services have done a thorough review, and have assured me that there is no conflict of interest at this time. However, if in my role, there was some business that proposed some kind of conflict of interest, I would be very prepared to get rid of those holdings.

Senator RIEGLE. Uh huh.

Do you manage your own portfolio?

Ms. GLEN. No.

Senator RIEGLE. As you know, the Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for many, often very complex, programs that reach millions of Americans, and they include Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare, Medicaid. As Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, what role do you see for yourself in educating the American people about these vitally important programs, and particularly those people eligible for the programs who do not know it and, therefore, do not receive what is there for them to help sustain them?

Ms. GLEN. Well, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, and because of the expansion that has occurred in the last several years working with the Congress and President Bush, there are a great deal of people out there who are eligible for these benefits and do not know it. I feel a great responsibility in trying to get those people the access into the system which they need. Toward that end, I will use not only the vast number of offices that Health and Human Services has around the country but work with the private sector in developing campaigns, whether it is through advertising, the media, public service announcements, articles, op eds, et cetera. I am going to be very aggressive in trying to reach the people that need the services that we are providing.

Senator RIEGLE. You have a diverse employment history, and in that history most of your experience seems to be campaign-related and White House press activities. What else is there in your past that you think equips you and would help you in communicating health care policy decisions?

Ms. GLEN. Well, certainly my experience as a press secretary, working for both Vice President Bush and President Bush, equips me very well to get the many messages from Health and Human Services out through the media. Also my experience as a television producer for Cable News Network. Through that I have a unique understanding of the needs of the television medium.

But I think that being in a press secretary/public affairs/public awareness mode for more than a dozen years does instill in you very creative instincts about how you want to get your message out. Very often—I am sure you both know only too well—the media is not the best way of getting out the exact message you want out there. So I think that I will try to use my creativity to tap all kinds of resources.

Senator RIEGLE. I have great affection for George Bush. We came to the Congress together 25 years ago, and we have maintained our friendship over the years. And the fact that he has confidence in you, which is demonstrated by your record and resume, has an impact on me since I really do not know you.

Having said that, I am very concerned about the fact that I think there is a disconnection between our government at the top and what is going on in the lives of ordinary people across the country. And I think nowhere is that more obvious than in the area of health care and health care insurance.

I head a subcommittee on the Finance Committee here called Health for Families and the Uninsured, and we have held a number of hearings here and field hearings throughout the coun-

try. And the cases that exist today that would break your heart of people desperately needing health care, of all ages—your age, younger, older. Not getting health care really borders on a crime against our people and really a crime against the future.

The other day I read in another setting—I won't do it here now, but I am sure you would be touched by it as I have been and others who heard it—I read the statement that a young woman, 28 years old, gave us who was suffering from Chrohn's disease at a public hearing on health care. She worked very hard and successfully at a 7-11, and was rising through the ranks there, but she did not have health care coverage through her work place and could not afford to buy it privately. And she left a hospital bed to come and testify in June 1989 at a hearing in Michigan. Six months later she died. And I am convinced that she would be alive today had she gotten the care she needed.

I must tell you very frankly, I don't see any sense of urgency on this issue within the administration. There are no plans that has been offered to deal with this problem, and no sense that a plan is coming any time soon. I see plans for everything else. I mean, we have got a plan to help the Soviet Government right now. We have got a plan to give most-favored-nation trading status to China. We have got a United States-Mexico Free Trade Agreement to help the Mexicans. We are helping Kuwait and every other country in the Persian Gulf. And we have all these walking wounded throughout our own society. And you don't have to look any further than out the window at the press office at the White House over at Lafayette Park to see all the homeless people taking up all the park benches there to understand that there is a grave problem in this country with respect to unmet health needs. And I really think it is outrageous, quite frankly, that we are not getting any proposals from the administration. Not that that is your responsibility in any sole fashion, but you are stepping forward to take a major policy position in this area, and so you carry some responsibility for speaking and acting and motivating them in trying to move things along.

And I must tell you that I think the country, generally—not just the 37 million people today that have no health insurance, the large number of whom are children who desperately need to have the coverage—but I think more and more people who are finding that if they are buying it privately they cannot afford it or they are being whittled down in terms of the coverage that they have, and so forth, I think it is a problem that is pervasive throughout the country; that even those who are fortunate enough to have it do not have enough of it or are finding that it is so expensive that it is almost more than they can bear to finance if they are financing it privately,

Have you ever been without health insurance yourself?

Ms. GLEN. No, sir.

Senator RIEGLE. Can you imagine what it is like if you were without it? I mean, how desperate do you think you would feel if you did not have it or if the members of your family did not have it?

Ms. GLEN. I understand what you are saying. And I agree that something needs to be done.

In my brief 6 months at Health and Human Services, however, I have seen how deeply committed Secretary Sullivan is toward that end.

Senator RIEGLE. Is he committed enough to get us a plan sometime soon before it is too late for more people like Cheryl Eichler, the woman that I was referring to before. I mean, when are we going to get it?

Ms. GLEN. There is no artificial time frame being put on a plan. Secretary Sullivan, who has devoted his entire adult career to the field of medicine, knows the urgency and the importance of this, and I am sure he focuses most of his energies on this very thing. However, I know that there are many, many interesting and innovative plans that are being discussed on the Hill, as well as within the Department. However, this is our only chance. We do not want to try to fix a not altogether broken system without a great deal of thorough investigation and obvious consensus.

Senator RIEGLE. Well, I understand that. And I am going to address this issue to everybody else that shows up connected with HHS from here on out, so I don't want you to feel as if you are alone being asked to bear the brunt of these obviously difficult questions and issues.

But this administration came to town a decade ago—over a decade ago—so there has been a lot of time, a lot of time—while Reagan was President, George Bush was Vice President. Now George Bush is President—and we do not have a plan. We do not have any timetable for a plan. And time is wasting. People's lives are being wasted.

I am convinced in my own mind—and you have a very good education. You went to a very fine school, the Greenwich Academy, and then you graduated from Hollins College. You were on the Dean's list—you know from your own experience how fortunate a good strong start in life can be. That is one of the reasons you are here. You might not be here were you not able to have such an outstanding opportunity to come forward and develop the talents that you have.

You know, the things that are so disconcerting here is the fact that I am convinced that if health insurance disappeared today for the President, for his family, the Vice President, for Members of the Senate, Members of the Cabinet, yourself, if suddenly it were taken away, I have a feeling that we would have a plan maybe by the end of the day, or we would have a plan within a few days to restore health insurance coverage. That's because the top officials in this government are not prepared to go without health insurance coverage for themselves and their families for any length of time because it is such an urgent and pressing requirement to have available to protect those that we love. And yet we have got 37 million people it is estimated—people in the country today—without any health insurance and no plan—no plan—to do anything about it from the administration.

We have got a plan for the Soviet Government. We have got a plan for the Chinese Government, for the Mexican Government, the Kuwait Government, every country in this world we have a plan for today except this one and it is an outrage. And something has to be done about it. And somebody has to speak about it. I

mean, somebody has to have an ounce of feeling and compassion for people outside their own personal experience. And I see very little of that right now.

I mean, the notion that we will have a plan sometime, some day, maybe after the next election or after the election after that or whenever it is off in the future, is no answer at all. It is no answer. And there is a responsibility of stewardship and leadership that attaches to each and every one of these jobs, starting with the President, whom I am going to have the chance to see later, and I intend to say something about it at that time because this health care issue is an issue that has to be addressed. And you are here today to take up responsibilities in that area. And I want to just make it very plain to you. I expect some leadership from you. I expect you to speak, and you to be a person who prods and pushes. And if there is inertia or if the agenda is somewhere else, or foreign policy is the thing that has everybody's attraction and attention, I expect you to try to do something about it, and to try to turn these wheels because if people like you and I and others do not, they are not going to turn to it. And it is not enough for us to have health insurance if other people, every bit as worthy as us, do not have it and have no way to get it, not in a modern nation in 1991. I mean, that is just not right, and it has to be changed and we have to do something to change it.

Ms. GLEN. I promise you I share your sense of urgency, Senator.

Senator RIEGLE. Thank you. Senator Packwood.

Senator PACKWOOD. You graduated from Hollins College in June 1979.

Ms. GLEN. Yes, sir.

Senator PACKWOOD. And on your work experience you started in January 1981. What did you do in those intervening 18 months?

Ms. GLEN. I was working for the "George Bush for President" campaign. Right after graduation I moved to Washington and worked here in the headquarters.

Senator PACKWOOD. Were you a volunteer then?

Ms. GLEN. For a few months, but I managed to get on the paid staff after not too long.

Senator PACKWOOD. Now, it is interesting that Senator Riegle would have asked the health questions because I wrote down to ask you about medical issues. And I meant the same thing, so it is not a followup on his question, but we all are concerned with it. I agree with you about Secretary Sullivan. We are lucky to have a man of his stature, and I don't know when we will ever have another Secretary with more of a medical background and a health background.

But you have got 10 years of work, and apart from your position as a producer at Crossfire—and there you ran across political issues every week—you have got a decade of being steeped in the issues of the day. Now, some of them you probably crossed early, some of them quite deeply. So rather than tell me what you hope Secretary Sullivan might do, give me your judgment as to what you think we should do with health coverage and health care in this Nation.

Ms. GLEN. I too, Senator, like many experts that are focusing on this issue, although I am by no means am an expert; do not have

the answer. However, I cannot emphasize enough how much energy is devoted to this issue at the Department of Health and Human Services. And from my perch at the White House press office, this was a subject that I spoke on very often on a daily basis, so there is the same commitment from the White House and the President.

I know you probably saw the Journal of American Medicine magazine recently which devoted its entire issue to the subject of the uninsured. I read that entire issue with great interest. But I couldn't help but notice that in that journal there were the experts—the leading experts—on that issue from all over the country and everybody had a different answer.

There is not going to be a Band-Aid fix to our problems in health care, which I understand, and, of course, frighten me as they do you sometimes. But taking the time to fix it right is important. And I do not have the answer to your question today. I wish I did, believe me.

Senator PACKWOOD. You know, the world is topsy-turvy sometimes, and you were in the House when this happened. I was the leading sponsor of President Nixon's comprehensive health insurance plan 20 years ago, which is not unlike what you are putting in. It was mandated health care.

Senator RIEGLE. Right.

Senator PACKWOOD. And President Nixon said, "We just cannot have this situation of people uncovered." Now, it is 20 years later and the people are still uncovered. And now the plan that Senator Riegle and others have introduced, which is actually more modest than President Nixon's plan, gets beat over the head by the people who supported President Nixon's plan. And I don't follow the flow of the logic somehow unless President Nixon's plan was bad also and this one is bad.

But I am not sure, Ms. Glen, whether there is any need for any more study. We have been at this for 20 years. With this kind of an attitude in the military, we would still be deciding whether or not we should even diplomatically reprimand Saddam Hussein for invading Kuwait. At some stage we move, and we move in one of two or three directions it seems to me. Either we go straight out for national health insurance ala Sweden and Great Britain, which I do not like, but that is one way to cover everybody.

Or we can go to a Canadian system, which is kind of a universal coverage system, but not nationalized medicine. The doctors are still private. Or we can go to a German system, where, in essence, we compel the employees to be covered and the employees pay the bulk of the cost. It is just deducted from their paycheck. They belong to a variety of health plans, but they are compelled to belong.

Do any of those strike your fancy?

Ms. GLEN. I don't really feel I am in a position of saying right here. I don't think that the Canadian health plan would work in America. There are so many different other plans that may work for other countries but might not work in America. But we are working toward figuring out what it is that will work here, and trying to achieve consensus, which does not mean just 50 plus 1,

because we want to get the consensus so that we really have a system that stays and works forever.

I wish, Senator, that I was able to answer your questions today the way I know you want and expect me to, but I am not in that position.

Senator PACKWOOD. Then let me give you some advice, because you are not going to get consensus. If you want to have national health insurance ala Britain, you won't get consensus. If you want to have mandated covered, you are not going to get consensus. At some stage, this is going to have to be passed on, a 60/40 or a 65/35 vote in the Senate. The President vetoes it. He will probably win it on that basis.

But there are only two issues. One is the breadth of coverage. What are you going to do about those who are uncovered? And the other is health care costs. And I am frank to say, if we mandate coverage for everybody, that takes care of the first problem but not the second, the costs. I am not sure I know the answer to the costs. But if you wait for consensus, you are not going to have any plan. At some stage you kind of draw the line in the sand and say those who are with us get behind us, and those who are not, get on the other side and the game is going to start, but it will not be consensus.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator RIEGLE. Thank you, Senator Packwood. And I am struck by the recollection that you give of the proposal roughly 20 years ago that you were a part of and the Nixon administration at that time. And that was an effort, as the plan that we have just developed, is an effort to deal with these two connected issues at the same time, extending the health care coverage to everyone but really tackling the problem of cost control and how you make the system more efficient.

You should also know, Ms. Glen, that all of the relevant parties of interest have been in here to testify that they think that things need to change and that we need a plan, some new plan, some new strategy, some new approach.

I have a letter signed by virtually all the medical organizations, the health care providers—I am talking about the physicians and doctors—saying that this problem cannot wait any longer; that there really needs to be a new plan developed that meets these two objectives. And they want to help do it. And the insurance companies are saying that. And the business firms that provide insurance are saying that, and the uninsured are saying it.

Everybody is saying it who is a party at interest, and yet, quite frankly—and I too have great respect for Dr. Sullivan—there is no plan forthcoming from the administration in this area. And there can be one; there needs to be one. We have just put one on the table. That is not written in stone. It can and will be adjusted as we go along. But we have to engage this issue. And I just feel so strongly, and I want to personalize it because I feel that way about it, and because I think you are a person of very special talents and preparation. I mean, you have had the opportunity to come forward today to sit here in that chair in a sense, not only in your own behalf and in your family's behalf, but in the country's behalf

because of opportunities you have had and the fact that you have worked hard to make the most of those opportunities.

I can remember the hearing that we had in Michigan where Cheryl Eichler, who reminds me of you in certain ways, testified. She was a wonderfully graceful very talented young woman, a 28-year-old. She came in great pain that day to talk about the fact that she did not have health care coverage and she had this advanced problem with Crohn's disease. And I think she had the potential to probably give as much of the country, in her way, as you do or as I do or as anyone does, and we lost that because she died at a premature age because she did not get the care she needed. And that is really a crime against the future of this country. And it might as well have been you, but for the accident of birth, or me, or any other person.

There is too much disconnection in our society today between those of us who are well situated and who have the health care coverage and protection, and those that do not. And there tends to be too much, I think, a problem of living in separate worlds by the very nature the way our society operates.

The people who need that help are not going to get it unless those of us who have it lead the fight to see that they are helped. And it is very easy to get casual about it when we have the protection and are not living with the risk that goes with not having it. So we need some new leadership and some fresh leadership and some sense of mission about this. And we are going to need some from you. And you need to make yourself enough of an irritant in that place so that people start to understand that this is an important issue because it is an important issue to you, because it is something that matters to you. And it is my hope that you have those kinds of feelings. And if you do, I think you can be a very valuable person in this job.

If it is just knocking out the day in and day out activities, then, you know, I don't think you are going to make much of a difference in this job. You will do it. Somebody did it before you. Somebody will do it after you. And it will be all well and good but not very special. If it is going to be special, somebody is going to have to give some leadership on facing up to the things in this country that we are not dealing with. So I am asking you to do some of that because I think you have the potential to do it, and I think you have the obligation to do it.

Ms. GLEN. Yes, sir.

Senator RIEGLE. Senator Packwood, anything further?

Senator PACKWOOD. No other comments, Mr. Chairman,

Senator RIEGLE. All right. We thank the witnesses for coming today. The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:50 a.m., the hearing was concluded.]

APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ALIXE REED GLEN

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, it is an honor for me to appear before you as President Bush's nominee for Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. I would like to thank the President and Secretary Sullivan for their confidence in me.

Mr. Chairman, as one who has pursued careers in both government and journalism, I am well aware of the vital importance of thorough, objective information to the proper functioning of a democracy. It has a direct bearing on the nature of public choices and public policy.

But information may be no more important than it is in the health and human services area. There, it can have a direct impact, on a daily basis, on the quality of life for each and every one of us. It can help people find the help they need and deserve. It can also have a fundamental influence—and, one hopes, a very positive one—on behavioral choices that underlie so many of our health problems today.

Indeed, it cannot be overemphasized that personal behavior and life style choices have very much to do with disease, disabilities, and infant mortality in this country. I strongly believe that better dissemination of information about the linkage can't help but reduce its unfortunate outcomes.

My first objective as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs will be to ensure that information emanating from Health and Human Services meets ever higher standards of quality.

To begin with, it should be as accurate and objective as possible.

Next, it should be sufficiently comprehensive and comprehensible. Indeed, there's not much need for information that falls short on answers or fails to get its point across.

Thirdly, our information should reach the people who need it. Thus, dissemination methods must be sensitive to the ever-changing nature of consumer tastes and delivery technologies.

With these standards as the foundation, my second goal will be to further enhance Secretary Sullivan's priority of improving the health of America's children—particularly those highly at risk because of social-economic conditions and, I regret to say, widespread ignorance about the influence of behavior on health. While the Federal Government spends 8 billion dollars a year on children's health care, government programs alone cannot succeed if parents fail to heed what is known about the importance of pre- and post-natal care. It is our job to help them to. Accordingly, I will work to develop culturally relevant information campaigns to reach all members of the American mosaic, to help parents maintain and strengthen the family unit, and to carry out Secretary Sullivan's message of individual empowerment and personal responsibility—what he has termed the "culture of character."

Of course, much of our success in that education effort will depend on the energy and creativity of those of us in the Public Affairs Office. Nevertheless, we will be powerless in the absence of help from important public constituencies. Thus, my third objective in the coming weeks and months will be to develop and strengthen partnerships with the business community, the media and, most importantly, those who roll up their sleeves on the front lines every day. We can and do benefit immeasurably from their collective resources, experience and ideas. I feel they are all eager to be tapped for assistance.

Mr. Chairman, in my previous experience at the White House I have tried my best to provide the American people with a clear and helpful understanding of

public policy and the issues involved therein. At Health and Human Services, I will be committed to bringing that same standard of service to the department's mission. Thank you very much, and I will be pleased to answer any questions.

BIOGRAPHICAL

1. Name: Alixe Reed Glen
2. Address: 3920 Jenifer Street, Washington, D.C. 20015
202/363-1244 (h)
202/456-2100 (o)
3. Date and Place of Birth: 8/24/57; Greenwich, CT
4. Marital Status: Robert M. Glen
5. Names and Ages of Children: None
6. Education: Hollins College, 1979 Bachelor of Arts
7. Employment Record:
 - 01/89-11/90—Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary, The White House
 - 08/87-01/89—Deputy Press Secretary, George Bush for President Campaign
 - 08/86-08/87—Press Officer, United States Peace Corps, Washington, D.C.
 - 07/85-08/86—Associate Producer, "Crossfire," Cable News Network (CNN), Washington, D.C.
 - 01/81-07/85—Assistant Press Secretary, Office of the Vice President, The White House
8. Government Experience:
 - All of the above jobs with the exception of the Associate Producer, "Crossfire," CNN
9. Qualifications:
 - I believe that I am qualified to serve as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs because I have had extensive experience in media relations, because I have a substantial understanding of President Bush's and Secretary Sullivan's initiatives regarding health and human services policy, and because I am committed to living up to the highest standards of public service. It will be a great privilege to serve the Administration in effectively conveying the priorities and policies of this diverse Department and the many constituencies it serves.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1/89--Present--**THE WHITE HOUSE**
Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Press Secretary
Serve as official spokesperson for the President of the United States on Administration policies, programs and initiatives. Coordinate with White House policy advisors and Cabinet members on articulating Administration positions and messages on all domestic issues and legislative proposals. Create and implement media plans for the President and White House Officials. Coordinate and arrange all interviews and major media events for the President, and oversee senior White House officials' appearances on network programs. Accompany the President on domestic and international travel. Position requires efficiency and accuracy under pressure, discretion and reliability.
- 8/87-1/89--**GEORGE BUSH FOR PRESIDENT**
Deputy Press Secretary
Served as official spokesperson for campaign and candidate. Accompanied candidate on all campaign travel. Coordinated daily campaign message with campaign offices in all 50 States. Supervised advance teams, arranged candidates print, radio and TV interviews, and developed scheduling and event strategies and themes. Supervised press office staff.
- 8/86-8/87--**UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS**
Washington, DC
Press Officer
Served as official Peace Corps spokesperson. Coordinated Peace Corps' communication plan with 16 regional offices. Initiated media coverage and promotion of Peace Corps' projects and special events including the 25th Anniversary. Wrote and edited press releases, articles and briefing papers issued by the agency. Supervised speechwriters and press office staff.
- 7/85-8/86--**CABLE NEWS NETWORK (CNN)**
Washington, DC
Associate Producer, "Crossfire"

Produced television network's top-rated nightly news interview program. Responsible for selecting program topics, booking and interviewing guests, preparing background research for program hosts, and assisting in floor production.

1/81-7/85—OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

The White House
Assistant Press Secretary

Served as liaison between the Vice President and print and electronic media. Responsible for arranging press conferences, interviews and photo opportunities. Coordinated out-of-town appearances and supervised press advance teams. Member of travelling staff on all domestic (50 States) and foreign (80 countries) trips. Position demanded flexibility and a keen affinity for detail and organization. Official spokesperson, 1983-84.

EDUCATION

1979—HOLLINS COLLEGE

Hollins, Virginia
B.A. in French and Political Science
Dean's List

1975—GREENWICH ACADEMY

Greenwich, Connecticut
Student Body President

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MARY C. SOPHOS

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Bush for this position and am very grateful to Secretary Brady for recommending me to the President. If I am confirmed by the Senate, I hope to carry out my responsibilities in a manner which justifies the trust and confidence they have placed in me.

It is an honor as well to appear before this Committee and I greatly appreciate the expeditious scheduling of this hearing given the press of business before the Committee at this time.

This Committee, the Congress and the Administration face serious issues and challenges in addressing the nation's problems. An important part of my role will be to faithfully represent the views of the Administration and equally important, to honestly communicate your views to the Treasury.

I believe that my background and experience spanning over ten years in both the legislative and executive branch will stand me in good stead in the performance of my duties. In addition, since January I have served as Acting Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs, and during the previous two years, held the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary for House liaison at Treasury.

Finally, I greatly appreciate this opportunity to provide a service to my country, and, if I am confirmed, will do so to the best of my abilities. I'll be happy to respond to your questions.

BIOGRAPHICAL

1. Mary Catherine Sophos
2. 1835 California St. N.W. #B, Washington, D.C. 20009
3. July, 10, 1954—Oxnard, California
4. Single
5. None
6. Pitzer College, Claremont Colleges, 1972-1976, Bachelor of Science, June 1976
7. National Food Processors Association, Washington, D.C.
7-76 through 3-81
Legislative Representative
Office of Management & Budget, Washington, D.C.
3-81 through 11-82
Legislative Assistant
Congressman Tom Loeffler, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
2-82 through 1-67
Legislative Director (1/86-1/87) and Budget Associate Staff (11/82-1/86)

Committees on Ways & Means

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

1/87 through 8/87

Assistant Minority Counsel/Budget Analyst

McCamish, Martin, Brown & Loeffler, Washington, D.C.

8/87 through 3/89

Director of Government Relations

U.S. Department of Treasury, Washington, D.C.

3/89 through 1/91 (Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs)

1/91 to Present (Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs)

