

NOMINATION OF MICHELLE A. SMITH

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON THE

NOMINATION OF

MICHELLE A. SMITH, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MARCH 29, 2000



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**NOMINATION OF MICHELLE A. SMITH, TO BE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2000

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

The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at 12:53 p.m., in room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James M. Jeffords, presiding.

Also present: Senator Moynihan.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES M. JEFFORDS, A U.S.
SENATOR FROM VERMONT**

Senator JEFFORDS. All right. Let us now turn to consideration of the nomination of Michelle Smith. Thank you for waiting this morning, Ms. Smith.

You have been nominated to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs. Your office is responsible for developing and implementing press strategy for the Treasury Department. In short, your role is to put the public face on the actions of the Treasury Department.

As we all know from our own experience, this is an important, and sometimes difficult, position to be in, and I look forward to hearing from you today.

I am now happy to turn to my good friend, Senator Moynihan, for his comments.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN,
A U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW YORK**

Senator MOYNIHAN. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On February 23, the President nominated Ms. Smith to be Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Since that date, this committee has had a very busy schedule, and we have only just now gotten to you.

But I know that Secretary Summers is most particularly interested in this matter, and that we are not only pleased to have you, but we are pleased to have someone who has a career of the kind you only knew in the nineteenth century.

This young lady is about to become a member of the sub-cabinet and began her life in the mail room, slaving away for Lloyd Bentsen of Texas. Here she is, arisen to this eminent position, and we welcome you.

Senator JEFFORDS. I see you have some members of your family with you. Would you please introduce them?

Ms. SMITH. Thank you very much. ~~This is my husband, Blake and my daughter, Madeleine.~~

Senator MOYNIHAN. Welcome, sir.

Senator JEFFORDS. Welcome.

Please rise.

[Whereupon, Ms. Smith was duly sworn.]

Senator JEFFORDS. Thank you.

Would you please proceed with your statement?

STATEMENT OF MICHELLE A. SMITH, NOMINATED TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS, WASHINGTON, DC

Ms. SMITH. Thank you, Senator Jeffords and Senator Moynihan, for the opportunity to appear before you today. I consider it a great honor and a privilege to have been recommended by Secretary Summers and nominated by President Clinton for the position of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the Treasury Department.

As Senator Moynihan said, I was fortunate to begin my career working for the former chairman of this distinguished committee, Senator Lloyd Bentsen. I was working in his mail room. In 1992, I became his deputy press secretary and was able to work with his long-time advisor and press secretary, Jack DeVore. Their example continues to inspire me to the highest ideals of public service.

For the past 7 years it has been my privilege to serve in Treasury's Office of Public Affairs under three exceptional leaders: Secretary Bentsen, Secretary Rubin, and Secretary Summers. They have taught me a great deal.

Above all, they have demonstrated the importance of an unflinching commitment to earning the public trust through truthfulness and honest dealings. By their actions, they have shown me that this is not only a vital ingredient of our dealings at home, but in our international relations as well.

If confirmed, I will continue to dedicate myself and my office to maintaining the high standards of excellence they have set for responsiveness and openness with the American public, their representatives in Congress, and with the press.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Secretary Summers. For 7 years, I have depended on his sound professional and personal guidance and I have been encouraged and inspired by his courage to do what is right.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be here. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or Senator Moynihan might have.

Senator JEFFORDS. Well, thank you very much. A very interesting life. Welcome.

I have some questions I have to ask under the rules. First, is there anything you are aware of in your background that might present a conflict of interest with the duties of the office to which you have been nominated?

Ms. SMITH. No, there is not.

Senator JEFFORDS. Second, do you know of any reason, personal or otherwise, that would in any way prevent you from fully and

honorably discharging the responsibilities of the office to which you have been nominated?

Ms. SMITH. No, I do not.

Senator JEFFORDS. Third, do you agree without reservation to respond to any reasonable summons to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of Congress, if you are confirmed?

Ms. SMITH. Yes.

Senator JEFFORDS. Ms. Smith, you have served for the past year and a half as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. You have also been at Treasury since 1993. Could you tell us what you have learned from this experience, and if there are any changes that you intend to make in the office?

Ms. SMITH. Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity. I believe my predecessors at Treasury, namely Jack DeVore and Howard Schloss, have set our office on the right path. As I mentioned in my statement, I will continue to dedicate myself to that high standard of excellence.

I believe it is important and key to democracy that the American public and the press have an opportunity to know what their elected and appointed officials are doing, and I will continue to make that my goal, to deal honestly, openly, and professionally with them.

Senator JEFFORDS. Senator Moynihan, any questions?

Senator MOYNIHAN. I have one question, sir, and it is a brief one. I believe you remarked in your opening statement that you are so pleased that Secretary Summers always did what was right. Did you say that?

Ms. SMITH. Yes, sir, I did.

Senator MOYNIHAN. How do you know what is right in the world of international markets? Do you mean, he has always done what he hopes is right?

Ms. SMITH. Right. I have been inspired by his commitment to do what is right. I believe he—

Senator MOYNIHAN. Do you really think there is such a thing in economics as that which is right?

Ms. SMITH. In life, yes, sir, I do.

Senator MOYNIHAN. Think about that for a bit, would you, and ask the Secretary. Would you do that as a personal favor?

Ms. SMITH. Yes, sir. I would be happy to.

Senator MOYNIHAN. I would appreciate it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You will have no difficulty.

Senator JEFFORDS. Thank you very much. You have satisfied me. So I will pass that on to the chairman.

Senator MOYNIHAN. Right.

Senator JEFFORDS. With that comment, the committee is now adjourned, right on schedule.

[Whereupon, at 1:00 p.m., the hearing was concluded.]



APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MICHELLE A. SMITH

Thank you Chairman Roth, Senator Moynihan and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today. At the outset, I would like to recognize two people in the audience who play very important roles in my life: my husband Blake and our daughter Madeleine. Their love and support—as well as the love and support of other members of my family in Texas—make it all worthwhile.

Mr. Chairman, I consider it a great honor and a privilege to have been recommended by Secretary Summers and nominated by President Clinton to be Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs for the Treasury Department.

I began my career working in the mailroom for the former chairman of this distinguished committee, Senator Lloyd Bentsen. In 1992 I became deputy press secretary on his personal staff, working closely with his long-time adviser and press secretary, Jack DeVore. Their example continues to inspire me to the highest ideals of public service.

For the past seven years it has been my privilege to serve in Treasury's Office of Public Affairs under three exceptional leaders: Secretaries Bentsen, Rubin and Summers. Each has taught me a great deal. Above all, they have demonstrated the importance of an unfailing commitment to earning the public trust through truthfulness and honest dealings. By their actions, they have shown me that this is not only a vital ingredient of our dealings here at home but our relations abroad, as well. If confirmed, I will continue to dedicate myself—and the Office of Public Affairs—to maintaining the high standards of excellence they have set for responsiveness and openness with the American people, their representatives in Congress and with members of the press.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to express my deep gratitude to Secretary Summers. For seven years, I have depended on his sound professional and personal guidance and I have been inspired by his courage to do what is right.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or the Committee might have.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Name: Elizabeth Michelle Andrews; Elizabeth Michelle Andrews Smith
2. Position to which nominated: Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs
3. Date of nomination:
4. Address: (List current residence, office, and mailing addresses.)
Home Address: 6416 Carolyn Drive
Falls Church, Virginia 22044
(703) 532-6572
Office Address: Ofc of the DAS/Public Affairs
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW #3442
Washington, DC 20220
(202) 622-2920
5. Date and place of birth: December 9, 1968; Dallas, TX
6. Marital status: Married 01/25/92; Robert Blake Smith
7. Names and ages of children: Daughter, Madeleine Blake Smith 9/10/97

8. Education: (List secondary and higher education institutions, dates attended, degree received, and date degree granted.)
 High School: Tyler Street Christian Academy—Diploma 1986
 College: Baylor University—B.A. Journalism/Business 1990
 Graduate: Baylor University—Master's of International Journalism 1991
 Additional: Monterrey Institute of Technology (Monterrey, Mexico) Fall, 1991
9. Employment record: (List all jobs held since college, including the title or description of job, name of employer, location of work, and dates of employment.)
 From August 1998 to the present, I have served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Department for Public Affairs. In this capacity I have been responsible for all media relations for then-Deputy Secretary and now current Treasury Secretary Summers. I have advised the Secretary and other senior Treasury officials on long-range and daily press issues. I have coordinated with the White House Press Office, the National Economic Council, other Cabinet agencies and Treasury 11 bureaus and managed a staff of 20. I served as director of Treasury's Office of Public Affairs from 1997–1998, and as deputy director of the Office from 1994–1997. I was a press officer, responsible for international and other press issues from 1993–1994 in that office.
 Prior to joining Treasury, I served in 1992 as deputy press secretary for Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX).
 I held several part-time professional jobs during college and graduate school. I was a graduate assistant in the Baylor University Journalism Department in 1991, and also worked as a public relations assistant in the Office of the Vice President for Communications. I was an editorial assistant for Dentist and RDH magazines at Stevens Publishing Corp. in Waco, Texas, from 1989–1990. (Detailed resume attached.)
10. Government experience: (List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State or local governments, other than those listed above.)
 None.
11. Business relationships: (List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, other business enterprise, or educational or other institution.)
 None.
12. Memberships: (List all memberships and offices held in professional, fraternal, scholarly, civic, business, charitable, and other organizations.)
 Member of Columbia Baptist Church. (From 1992)
 Member of Kappa Delta Sorority. (Beginning 1987)
13. Political affiliations and activities: Democrat
- a. List all public offices for which you have been a candidate.
 None.
- b. List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered to all political parties or election committees during the last 10 years.
 None.
- c. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$50 or more for the past 10 years.
 None.
14. Honors and Awards: (List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognitions for outstanding service or achievement.)
 I was awarded a full scholarship plus a stipend for graduate studies in international journalism at Baylor University (Waco, Texas) in 1990.
15. Published writings: (List the titles, publishers, and dates of all books, articles, reports, or other published materials you have written.)
 None.
16. Speeches: (List all formal speeches you have delivered during the past five years which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Provide the Committee with two copies of each formal speech.)
 None.
17. Qualifications: (State what, in your opinion, qualifies you to serve in the position to which you have been nominated.)

My background and work experience have well-qualified me to assume the responsibilities of Assistant Secretary (Public Affairs) at the Treasury Department. From August 1998 to the present, I have served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Department for Public Affairs. In this capacity I have been responsible for all media relations for then-Deputy Secretary and now current Treasury Secretary Summers. I have advised the Secretary and other senior Treasury officials on long-range and daily press issues. I have coordinated with the White House press office, the National Economic Council, other Cabinet agencies and Treasury 11 bureaus and managed a staff of 20. I served as director of Treasury's Office of Public Affairs from 1997-1998, and as deputy director of the Office from 1994-1997. I was a press officer, responsible for international and other press issues from 1993-1994 in that Office. Prior to joining Treasury, I served in 1992 as deputy press secretary for Senator Lloyd Bentsen (DTX.) I held several part-time professional jobs during college and graduate school. I was a graduate assistant in the Baylor University Journalism Department in 1991, and also worked as a public relations assistant in the Office of the Vice President for Communications. I was an editorial assistant for Dentist and RDH magazines at Stevens Publishing Corp. in Waco, Texas, from 1989-1990.

B. FUTURE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIPS

1. Will you sever all connections with your present employers, business firms, associations, or organizations if you are confirmed by the Senate? If not, provide details.

If confirmed, I will continue to be an employee of the Treasury Department.

2. Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service with the government? If so, provide details.

No.

3. Has any person or entity made a commitment or agreement to employ your services in any capacity after you leave government service? If so, provide details.

No.

4. If you are confirmed by the Senate, do you expect to serve out your full term or until the next Presidential election, whichever is applicable? If not, explain.

Yes.

C. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated.

None.

2. Describe any business relationship, dealing or financial transaction which you have had during the last 10 years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated.

None.

3. Describe any activity during the past 10 years in which you have engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy. Activities performed as an employee of the Federal government need not be listed.

None.

4. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including any that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items. (Provide the Committee with two copies of any trust or other agreements.)

I am unaware that any of my responses to the items in this questionnaire raises conflict of interest concerns. However, following my appointment as Assistant Secretary, should I become aware of the potential for a conflict to arise in connection with the performance of my official duties, I will promptly consult with Treasury's ethics counsel.

5. Two copies of written opinions should be provided directly to the Committee by the designated agency ethics officer of the agency to which you have been nomi-

nated and by the Office of Government Ethics concerning potential conflicts of interest or any legal impediments to your serving in this position.

6. The following information is to be provided only by nominees to the positions of United States Trade Representative and Deputy United States Trade Representative:

Have you ever represented, advised, or otherwise aided a foreign government or a foreign political organization with respect to any international trade matter? If so, provide the name of the foreign entity, a description of the work performed (including any work you supervised), the time frame of the work (e.g., March to December 1995), and the number of hours spent on the representation.

D. LEGAL AND OTHER MATTERS

1. Have you ever been the subject of a complaint or been investigated, disciplined, or otherwise cited for a breach of ethics for unprofessional conduct before any court, administrative agency, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, provide details.
No.
2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority for a violation of any Federal, State, county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, other than a minor traffic offense? If so, provide details.
No.
3. Have you ever been involved as a party in interest in any administrative agency proceeding or civil litigation? If so, provide details.
No.
4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, provide details.
No.
5. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be considered in connection with your nomination.
None.

E. TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS

1. If you are confirmed by the Senate, are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?
Yes.
2. If you are confirmed by the Senate, are you willing to provide such information as is requested by such committees?
Yes.



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