

STATEMENT OF ARTHUR J. ROTHKOPF
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION
CONCERNING CONFIRMATION AS GENERAL COUNSEL
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OCTOBER 2, 1991

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Committee today on my nomination to serve as General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

I am deeply honored to have been selected by Secretary Skinner to serve as part of his senior management team and to have been nominated by the President for the post of General Counsel. Secretary Skinner has provided the country with dynamic leadership in dealing with the transportation issues facing the Nation and in developing and implementing a national transportation policy. I look forward to the opportunity of counselling the Secretary on the many and complex legal issues coming before the Department.

As the Committee may be aware, my professional background and experience have not involved me directly in transportation issues. However, I believe that my 33 years as a lawyer in government service and private practice will prove invaluable if I am confirmed by the Senate. I spent eight years in government service following graduation from law school, six of them in Washington in policy positions with the Treasury Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission. During my work with the Treasury, I had significant legislative experience and also began my personal involvement in international legal issues.

In 1967, I joined the Washington law firm of Hogan & Hartson and became a partner in that firm in 1969. I have represented a wide variety of clients before many federal agencies. My practice has been varied -- commercial, tax and securities -- with a particular focus on international legal questions. I am currently the head of my firm's international practice, and during my tenure with Hogan & Hartson, I have occupied senior management positions.

I pledge to the Committee that I will become knowledgeable as quickly as possible on the relevant legal issues facing the Department of Transportation. In this regard, I look forward to working closely with the highly regarded and qualified professional staff of the General Counsel's office.

The national transportation policy developed under the leadership of Secretary Skinner emphasizes the need for the United States to be competitive in world markets through a highly efficient and safe transportation system. My personal experience in the private sector emphasizes that need. U.S. exporters are competing daily in world markets, and in order to compete successfully, they must have access to a transportation system that permits them to bid successfully on contracts and to deliver their goods as promptly and efficiently as possible. I will do whatever I can to assist the Secretary in the prompt implementation of this and the many other elements of the national transportation policy.

I welcome the opportunity of returning to government service. President Bush and Secretary Skinner are deeply committed to public service, a commitment that I share with great enthusiasm. I look forward to the opportunity of working closely with this Committee and its staff and to a continuing relationship in dealing with the many urgent transportation issues facing us today and in the years ahead.

I will be pleased to answer any questions which you may have at this time.

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