

STATEMENT OF SENATOR JOHN McCAIN
CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FULL COMMITTEE HEARING
ON NORMAN Y. MINETA TO BE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
JULY 19, 2000

- C Today the Committee meets to consider Norman Mineta's nomination to be the United States Secretary of Commerce. Norm Mineta is one of my colleagues from my days in the House of Representatives. I welcome him before the Committee, and congratulate him on his nomination to this prestigious post. Mr. Mineta, if you would like to introduce your family members who are here for this occasion?
- C Mr. Mineta has a long record of distinguished public service. He served 20 years in the House as a California representative of Silicon Valley. During part of his tenure in the House, Mr. Mineta served as Chairman of the then Public Works and Transportation Committee. Mr. Mineta currently serves as Vice President of Special Business Initiatives at Lockheed Martin Corporation.
- C This is not the first time that Norm Mineta has come before the committee. The Senate recently approved his nomination to serve on the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. The President also recently appointed him to chair the Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders. As most of us know, as a young boy Mr. Mineta and his family were among the Americans of Japanese ancestry forced into internment camps during World War II.
- C We can all probably acknowledge that Commerce Secretary Daley made a valiant effort to clean up the Commerce Department's reputation as a "dumping ground" for the politically connected. I hope that Mr. Mineta takes this mission seriously. He and I have discussed my concerns about the more recent revelations concerning the alleged political nature of the Commerce Department trade missions.
- C Again, Mr. Mineta, I want to congratulate you on this momentous occasion in history. I am sure that I speak for the rest of my colleagues when I say that we are proud and heartened to welcome you back to the life of public service. It is my intention to move your nomination out of the Committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your appearance today.