

Statement by Senator Charles E. Schumer
To the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
On the nomination of Jacob Lew
To be Director of the Office of Management and Budget
As prepared for delivery
September 16, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for inviting me here today to introduce my friend and fellow New Yorker, Jack Lew.

No matter how many years he spends here in Washington, Jack, who grew up in Forest Hills, Queens, and his wife, Ruth, who grew up in Flatbush, Brooklyn, will always be New Yorkers.

I am delighted to endorse Jack's nomination to serve as the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Jack is an accomplished public servant, renowned for his managerial prowess and his common-sense approach to solving tough problems. He is uniquely well-qualified to take the helm of OMB in these precarious economic times.

Jack is no stranger to many of us in this room. He and I first met three decades ago, when I was a wide-eyed freshman Congressman and Jack was a top aide to House Speaker Tip O'Neill. I know that Tip had a tremendous influence on Jack, and it is clear that Jack shares the late Speaker's indefatigable work ethic and sense of civic duty.

Of course, Jack is no stranger to the OMB, either. Jack joined the Clinton OMB in 1994 and quickly distinguished himself not only as a knowledgeable policy wonk, adept and navigating the intricacies of the tax code and the federal budget, but as an agile leader with a knack for operations.

He rose to become OMB's chief operating officer and then, in 1998, was named its Director. When Jack left the OMB at the end of the Clinton Administration, the federal government had an unprecedented surplus of \$236 billion.

Jack has spent the past decade further honing his managerial skills in a number of high-stakes environments, from the private-sector to academia.

Last year, Jack once again answered the call to public service and returned to DC to become the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, a new position. According to his colleagues at State, Jack "transformed" the Department, cutting red-tape and increasing cooperation throughout Foggy Bottom.

I know Secretary of State Clinton is sad to lose Jack, but I am confident that he will prove to be a valuable asset to the President and the American people in his new position. I look forward to working with him and the rest of the President's economic team as we focus on a growth agenda in the months and years to come. Job creation is my top priority in Congress, and I know Jack shares my commitment to jumpstarting the American economy.

Mr. Chairman, I am confident that Jack possesses the expertise and the work-ethic necessary to once again excel as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak. I encourage the Committee to approve this nomination with the certitude that Deputy Secretary Lew's impressive credentials merit.

Jack, I congratulate you on your nomination.