

He has an exceptionally fine educational background, and he has had a number of years of sound experience in government.

Certainly of far more importance, and that which is not discernible through brief biographical information, is this young man's fine character and reputation. His highly efficient manner, his integrity, the extremely high respect which his associates hold for him, can far better than I express to you his qualifications to be a member of the Commission. I strongly urge your favorable consideration of this appointment.

Sincerely yours,

(S) John Tower
JOHN G. TOWER.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Metcalf.

Senator METCALF. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased on behalf of my very distinguished colleague and majority leader Senator Mansfield and myself to be able to present to the committee a constituent of ours, Mr. John Vance, from my hometown of Helena, Mont., who has been nominated to the Indian Claims Commission by President Johnson.

Following graduation from the University of Montana School of Law, Mr. Vance engaged in private practice in Missoula and served as deputy county attorney there. He has also served as our city attorney in Helena.

For 9 years he was counsel for the Montana Trade Commission, which is charged with administering the Unfair Practices Act and antimonopoly statute.

I would mention here that during this period Mr. Vance worked with the House Small Business Subcommittee, then chaired by Congressman James Roosevelt, collaborating in the studies and hearings on retail gasoline prices that have had a national impact. Senator Burdick's State enticed Mr. Vance to cross the line about a year ago to accept an appointment as visiting associate professor on the faculty of the University of North Dakota School of Law.

We Montanans were pleased to share the talents of John Vance with our neighboring State of North Dakota.

Senator Mansfield and I are proud to offer his services to a national constituency. We know that he will be an outstanding Commissioner and unstintingly give his time and wisdom toward judicious and timely settlement of these important claims before the Commission.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Metcalf.

Does any other Senator wish to make an opening comment?

I will call on first Mr. Vance for a brief statement of his background. Then I would like to elicit from you, Mr. Vance, your understanding of your responsibilities in the event your nomination is approved.

STATEMENT OF JOHN THOMAS VANCE, NOMINEE FOR COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION

Mr. VANCE. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I suppose anyone who practices law in Montana for 17 years also lays claim to being a country lawyer and that is what I am.

I think that certainly public service is a very high calling for anyone but it is the highest calling, in my opinion, that a lawyer can attain. I have practiced law in both Missoula, Mont., which is a small town of about 45,000 people now, and for the last 14 years have been in Helena, Mont., where I am city attorney.