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NomineeAlert



Blank's Background

Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce

Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce

Robert S. Kerr Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

Co-director, National Poverty Center, University of Michigan

Dean, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan

Member, Council of Economic Advisers, Executive Office of the President

Director, Northwestern University/ University of Chicago Joint Center for Poverty Research

Professor of Economics, Northwestern University

Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Princeton University

Senior Staff Economist, Council of Economic Advisers, Executive Office of the President

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

EDUCATION

B.A., University of Minnesota

Ph.D., Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

this issue:

Rebecca Blank, Nominee for Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce

Who is Rebecca Blank? Big Government Advocate

On November 1, 2011 President Obama nominated Rebecca Blank to be the Deputy Commerce Secretary.

While Blank's faith in government is strong, her faith in the private sector is not.

Blank scoffs at the notion that charities and the private sector can channel people from welfare to work and argues for a governmental role. "At the end of the day, it is going to be government-run programs that help most public-assistance clients prepare for and find work," she writes. Fn.1.

"Given her skepticism of the private sector, Blank has no business running the Commerce Department. Her nomination should be rejected."

-Bill Wilson, President, Americans for Limited Government

Blank said a private nursing

home, for example, may provide a cheaper and faster alternative that can get the job done, but government services usually can provide more -- that extra late-night

conversation with a patient, for example. Fn.2.

Incredibly, Blank does not even trust parents.

When children enter school for the first time, their parents decide where

they will attend, Blank said. But parents may not always pick the best option.

"How much can you trust parents to make the right decisions for their children?" Blank said. Fn.3.

Sources for further reading:

Fn.1. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-4420226.html>

Fn.2. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-20533797.html>

Fn.3. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-20533797.html>

Fn.4. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-186270898.html>

Fn.5. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-124078287.html>

Fn.6. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-20533797.html>

Fn.7. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-124078287.html>

Fn.8. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P3-1321733611.html>

Fn.9. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-120899893.html>

Fn.10. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P3-1623466151.html>

Fn.11. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P3-1510841751.html>

Fn.12. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-23362714.html>

Fn.13. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-1200187.html>

Fn.14. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-135079131.html>

Fn.15. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-124078287.html>

Fn.16. <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P3-120193017.html>

What you really need to know about Blank

Blank defends the government against criticism.

“Blank replies that, given the complexity of the problems government faces, we should be pleased that government gets it right as often as it does.” Fn.4.

She says we must ask another question too: “How does the government manage to accomplish so much?” Fn.5.

She thinks the government is fairer than the private sector.

Another argument for government involvement is that it can often provide services more fairly than the private sector.

“The more you argue for equal provisions the more you realize that the government can do that best,” Blank said. Fn.6.

Blank seems contemptuous of free marketeers and libertarians. She faults belief in “free markets” and in the economic model of markets as a kind of “secular religion.” ... She openly describes libertarianism as not Christian. Fn.7.

She participated in the Taskforce on Poverty organized by the liberal Center for American Progress. In its report, the taskforce called for a hike in the minimum wage which would have resulted in an increase to \$8.40 per hour in 2006. The taskforce also called for creating millions of new housing vouchers, passing a card check bill, and hiking taxes by \$90 billion to pay for new government spending. Fn.8.

Blank recognizes that hiking the minimum wage will likely increase teenage unemployment, but she does not care. Fn.9.

She seems cavalier about wasting taxpayer dollars. Fn.10.

She favored a second stimulus package. Fn.11.

During the 1990s, Blank vociferously opposed welfare reform. Fn.12.

As a delegate at a church synod, she helped draft a pronouncement calling on Christians to push for an “economic bill of rights’ that would provide for a guaranteed national minimum income level aimed at ensuring food, clothing and shelter for all.” Fn.13.

She wants to extend unemployment insurance to part-time workers. Fn.14.

Blank supports redistributionist policies.

Governments should pursue the common good and are right to alter market outcomes at times by redistribution of income. Fn.15.

She supports giving food stamps and Medicaid to immigrants, and perhaps some other government benefits as well. Fn.16.

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