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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DATE: 20 JUN 79

FOR ACTION: TIM KRAFT

ARNIE MILLER

INFO ONLY:

SUBJECT: BLUMENTHAL MEMO RE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT
BALDWIN TO US INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (456-7052) +

+ BY: 1200 PM FRIDAY 22 JUN 79 +

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ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR COMMENTS

STAFF RESPONSE: () I CONCUR. () NO COMMENT. () HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:



THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON 20220

June 20, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Proposed Appointment of Robert Baldwin to
the U.S. International Trade Commission

With Joseph Ablondi's departure from the International Trade Commission, you must appoint a new member. By law this member may be, and by custom should be, a Democrat.

Implementation of the MTN codes and the new trade bill will heighten the importance of the ITC. The Commission will continue to be the focus of protectionist pressure in this country. And it has numerous additional responsibilities to perform under tight time deadlines as a result of the MTN.

It is thus critical to get all the help we can in faithfully implementing the new legislation while maintaining your commitment to an open trading system. This appointment allows you to provide some of that help by adding to the International Trade Commission a prestigious trade expert who would be sympathetic to the Administration's goal of free and fair trade. The current Commission would be greatly strengthened by adding someone who could dramatically improve both the Commission's analysis of trade problems and its imaginativeness in proposing solutions.

Robert Baldwin of the University of Wisconsin fills the bill. Long active in the trade policy field, he is a former editor of the American Economic Review and the author of numerous studies on international trade and on economic development. He is a good Democrat, and was chief economist for the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations under Christian Herter during the Kennedy Round. He recently worked as a consultant with the Department of

Labor, where he was responsible for a major study on the employment effects of tariff cuts, and is thus particularly sensitive to the effects of trade policy on U.S. workers. He is currently in Washington on a World Bank grant doing a study of U.S. trade policy formulation.

Baldwin is available for service on the International Trade Commission. I urge you to appoint him.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike".

W. Michael Blumenthal