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**PUBLIC
INFORMATION**



U.S. TARIFF COMMISSION

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For release
July 12, 1971

**CATHERINE MAY BEDELL SWORN IN AS FIRST WOMAN CHAIRMAN
OF U.S. TARIFF COMMISSION**

The first woman to assume the chairmanship of the U.S. Tariff Commission officially took office today (Monday). Mrs. Catherine May Bedell, former Republican Congresswoman from Yakima, Washington, was sworn into office at special ceremonies at the Commission offices in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Bedell's nomination by President Nixon was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 24, 1971. She will serve as Chairman of the six-member bipartisan Commission for a three-year term, succeeding Chester L. Mize.

Mrs. Bedell served in the House of Representatives from 1958 through 1970 and earlier this year was a Presidentially-appointed incorporator and member of the board of directors of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK).

In ceremonial remarks, Mrs. Bedell said, "The economic and foreign trade problems facing our nation in this decade are many. How we meet and cope with the challenges they present in an expanding world marketplace will affect our ability to support crucial domestic programs at home."

The Tariff Commission was created by act of Congress in 1916. It serves the Congress and the President as an advisory, factfinding agency on tariff, commercial policy and foreign trade matters.

Biography and copy of
remarks attached

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BIOGRAPHICAL DATA: Catherine May Bedell

Catherine May Bedell was born May 18, 1914, in Yakima, Washington. She received a bachelor and 5-year education degree from the University of Washington at Seattle in 1936.

Before entering a political career, Mrs. Bedell was a teacher and a radio broadcaster and educator.

She was a Member of the Washington State Legislature for 6 years and was elected to the United States Congress in 1958 where she served 12 years.

In Congress, Mrs. Bedell was a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, the District of Columbia Committee and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. She also served on the National Commission on Food Marketing and was appointed to the House Select Committee on Standards and Conduct. Specialized work in Congress included agriculture, water and land conservation, food marketing, consumer education and selected areas of special education. Her participation in international trade meetings and activities included the Interparliamentary Union meetings in Ottawa, Canada, and Majorca, Spain; U. S. Representative at the 1968 Trade Fair in Tokyo, Japan; attendance at the U.S. Agricultural Attaches meeting in Bonn, Germany in 1969; and the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference of 1969 in Rome, Italy. In December of 1970 Mrs. Bedell was a Presidential Appointee to the Board of Incorporators of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK) and served on the Board of Directors of that corporation until her appointment to the United States Tariff Commission.

She is married to Donald W. Bedell, management consultant in the field of chemicals and plastics. Mrs. Bedell's son, Captain James C. May is in the U. S. Marine Corps stationed at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California. Her daughter, Melinda May, just completed a year's study of art and language in Rome, Italy.

Mr. and Mrs. Bedell reside at 4101 Cathedral Avenue, Washington, D. C. 20016.

FOR RELEASE: 11 A. M. , July 12, 1971

Remarks by Honorable Catherine May Bedell upon assuming the
chairmanship, U. S. Tariff Commission
July 12, 1971

It is with a sense of humility that I assume the Chairmanship of the U. S. Tariff Commission. I am honored by President Nixon's trust and the support of the distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee who voted for my confirmation.

As I've begun to look into the role of this prestigious agency, and the powers and responsibility it has for providing information as a guide to future policies of our government in tariff affairs, I sense that I'm presently at the bottom of a very steep -- and what promises to be -- fast rising learning curve.

All of us know, the economic and foreign trade problems facing our nation in this decade are many. How we meet and cope with the challenges they present in an expanding world marketplace will affect our ability to support crucial domestic programs at home.

Mr. Peterson, the Chairman of the President's Council on International Economic Policy has pointed out that, "If you're going to pay for environmental and poverty programs, you've got to have growth."

I believe the Tariff Commission, through new initiatives of its own, can make an important contribution towards development of a dynamic trade policy for this decade.

While I was nominated for this position by our Chief Executive, I recognize fully the unique role of the Tariff Commission as set forth in the original Tariff Act of 1916, that this bipartisan Commission serve as an arm of the Congress. Its main objective then, and now, as an investigative body is to collect and analyze information on commodities entering into international trade -- especially as regards competitive production costs and the effects of imports on domestic production.

Today, the need for sound, accurate information on which to base our decisions is greater than ever. The first chairman of the Commission, Mr. Fred W. Taussig, felt it should act as the servants and assistants of the Congress and that its inquiries should be exhaustive. I think he stated it rather well when he said:

"We will proceed with care and method that we shall be accurate, painstaking, discriminating. We shall refrain from guess, rumor, exaggeration, vague and untested general statements. We will proceed in a scientific way if we gather all the information we can, sift it with care, present it clearly, and apply it intelligently."

This I will strive to make my creed so long as I may serve. With the help of the President, the Congress, my fellow commissioners and the Commission staff, I hope we can succeed as we work together on the solution of these crucial problems.