



WARREN G. MAGNUSON
of Washington

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Warren G. Magnuson, a Democrat from Washington, became chairman on January 27, 1978, and served until January 3, 1981. He was a member of the committee for 28 years from 1953 until 1981.

Born in Moorhead, Clay County, MN, on April 12, 1905, Magnuson attended the public schools, the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, and North Dakota State College. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1926 and from the law school in 1929. After gaining admission to the bar that same year, he practiced law in Seattle, WA. During the 1930's, Magnuson served as prosecuting attorney for King County, WA, as U.S. district attorney, and as a member of the State house of representatives. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, attaining the rank of lieutenant commander. From 1937 to 1944, he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and was then appointed to the U.S. Senate to fill a vacancy. Winning election to the seat, he remained in the Senate for 37 years until 1981. For more than 20 years, from 1955 to 1978, Magnuson chaired the committee that was variously known as Interstate and Foreign Commerce; Commerce; and Commerce, Science and Transportation, before becoming chairman of the Appropriations Committee. From 1979 to 1981, Magnuson was President pro tempore of the Senate. He died on May 20, 1989.

For further reading: Scates, Shelby. *Warren G. Magnuson and the Shaping of Twentieth Century America*. Seattle, WA, 1997.

Garraty, John A. and Mark C. Carnes, eds. *American National Biography*. New York, 1999. Vol. 14.