

## JACK LEW'S SIGNATURE

Ruth Rostron

Barack Obama mocks Jack Lew's loopy signature

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*President Barack Obama jokingly joined in criticism of Jack Lew's signature on Thursday, urging his Treasury nominee to change it before it appears on dollar bills and risks devaluing the currency.*

*Standing next to Lew and outgoing Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner at a White House event to announce his nomination, Obama said he had never noticed how Lew, currently his chief of staff, signed off on memos.*

*'When this was highlighted yesterday in the press, I considered rescinding my offer to appoint him' Obama said. 'Jack assures me that he is going to work to make at least one letter legible in order not to debase our currency should he be confirmed as Secretary of the Treasury'.*

*The talk over Lew's signature, which will be electronically printed on every US banknote, drowned out expected Republican criticisms of him being too liberal.*

### TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPART

Jacob J. Lew  
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal endstroke.

Eliminating Excess Conference Spending and  
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#### ANALYSIS

##### Handwriting movements

Arcade form of connection

Variable size, initial and final emphasis

Highly connected, words connected

Dominant middle zone

+/- Upright slant

Illegible, ambiguous letters

Speed slightly quick, fluent

Letter width and spacing irregular

Slightly arrhythmic

Baseline convex (or MZ letters extended above and below the baseline?)

Full loops, roundness, enrolled first letter

Pseudo arcades (additional MZ loops)

Reverse letter formations

Extended horizontal endstroke

## Personality profile

Judging from his signature (which will not tell the whole story) Jack Lew is a very emotional man, though he tries not to show it (*full loops, variable MZ, convex baseline, arcades*). He appears amenable and sociable and tries to keep on good terms with people because he wants them to like him and needs their approval (*pseudo-arcades, +/- upright, roundness*). Basically he is a sensitive but self-centred person who likes to have his own way and will push for what he wants (*dominant MZ, initial and final emphasis, enrolled first letter, highly connected, extended end*).

Outwardly he may appear confident (*initial and final emphasis, slightly quick speed*) but inwardly he is anxious and his self-assertiveness compensates for inner insecurity (*variable MZ size / width / spacing, pseudo-arcades, arrhythmic*). A clue as to where this originated may lie in the smaller loops that appear in the middle of the signature where a larger loop to represent the L of 'Lew' might have been expected. With the initial emphasis this could suggest a lack of positive regard for his father and the family name and a need to assert himself within the family.

Consisting entirely of circular shapes, it shows how strong the influence of his mother was and implies some difficulty in identifying with his father and the male role. Since straight strokes represent a person's mental and masculine side while curved ones represent the emotional, physical and feminine, it is remarkable that this man has unconsciously eliminated nearly all straight strokes! It is hard to imagine that there would be none in the rest of his writing, but the lack of them in Jack Lew's signature is important: a signature reflects a person's public image and his shows a high degree of concern to win social approval, smooth things over, avoid provocation or confrontation and maintain the appearance of control (*arcades, +/- upright, illegible*).

The arcades and extended end show that his attitude is self-protective and guarded, while the pseudo-arcades reflect the habitual worrying and anxiety he tries to keep to himself. Letters go round in circles like the problems in his mind and the monotonous repetition of the movement is a sign of mental strain. Unfortunately the fact that he uses only one form of connection means that he lacks tools and resourcefulness when it comes to dealing with problems. Maslow wrote that 'To a man that has a hammer in the toolkit, every problem looks like a nail'.

Nevertheless he shows great persistence and is thorough (*highly connected, extended end, final emphasis, loops that 'go the extra mile'*). He is prepared to be flexible up to a point but once he has settled on a course of action it will be difficult to deflect him from it. While he appears to listen and take on board other points of view (*+/- upright, slightly irregular*) his mind is closed to ideas that are radically different from his own (*arcades, highly connected, some narrow loops*). He can appreciate a logically reasoned argument but lacks the ability to think outside the box and detaching his emotions from work-related decisions would be extremely difficult for him (*full loops, roundness, dominant MZ, initial emphasis*).

He forms his loops in a clockwise direction, whereas circle letters should be written anti-clockwise. Reversing direction normally goes unnoticed and can be an tell-tale sign of poor integrity (though whether this was true in his case would depend on other features in the rest of his writing). This pattern suggests that he can work within the system but likes to do things his own way, perhaps by dispensing with normal procedures or networking behind the scenes to achieve an objective while apparently adhering to protocol. The over-arching movements reflect the ways of a smooth operator who oils the wheels of politics and while taking control prefers not to disclose exactly what he is doing (*arcades, fluent, illegible, extended 'holding off' endstroke*).