

# **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Tuesday, April 12, 2011*

**U.S. SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

1           The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:22 p.m. in Room S-116, The Capitol,

2   Hon. John F. Kerry, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3           Present: Senators Kerry [presiding], Boxer, Cardin, Casey, Shaheen, Coons,

4   Lugar, Rubio, Isakson, and Lee.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN F. KERRY,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

5           THE CHAIRMAN. Well, folks, this business meeting will come to order.

6           Folks -- Bertie, are you happy?

7           MR. BOWMAN: We need one more.

8           SENATOR BOXER. No, I think we have --

9           MR. BOWMAN: We've got ten. Ten? Okay, ten. Okay, we've got ten.

10          SENATOR BOXER. We've got ten.

11          THE CHAIRMAN. Bertie --

12          MR. BOWMAN: Yes?

1 THE CHAIRMAN. -- hang on one second.

2 Everybody, I just want to comment to everybody that 13 years ago -- that'll be --  
3 13 years ago -- 67 years ago, a 13-year-old kid ran away from home in South Carolina  
4 and came up here to Washington. And he began by sweeping the steps of the United  
5 States Capitol, worked his way up from that, and he is, today, 80 years old. He's our  
6 own Bertie Bowman.

7 [Applause.]

8 THE CHAIRMAN. And so, I -- many of you may know this -- Bertie actually  
9 retired at one point, and then we figured out we couldn't get along without him, and he  
10 figured it out, and he came back. And he's been through everything that -- I mean, this  
11 committee has been through, sort of, some incredible years.

12 And so, Bertie, we're really privileged to have you here, helping to run the show  
13 and make our hearings happen, and all the business meetings and everything. We're  
14 grateful to you. Thank you.

15 MR. BOWMAN: I appreciate that, Senator. Don't go any further, because I may get  
16 emotional. You know how that happens.

17 [Laughter.]

1 THE CHAIRMAN. Bertie, for all of you who haven't met -- he wrote a memoir, and  
2 it's really good, and you ought to read it. If you haven't, you really should read it. It's  
3 assigned reading if you're a member of this committee.

4 [Laughter.]

5 THE CHAIRMAN. Anyway, Bertie --

6 MR. BOWMAN: Thanks a lot --

7 THE CHAIRMAN. -- we thank you. We thank you so much.

8 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

9 SENATOR LUGAR. Mr. Chairman, he's been managing the credit union for years --

10 MR. BOWMAN: Thank you.

11 SENATOR LUGAR. -- as a trustee --

12 SENATOR BOXER. Yes.

13 SENATOR LUGAR. -- of our money.

14 MR. BOWMAN: And, as Senator Lugar, said, I won by a landslide.

15 THE CHAIRMAN. There you go.

16 [Laughter.]

17 THE CHAIRMAN. Thanks, Bertie.

18 So, we've got one legislative item and a number of nominations on the agenda.

1           The legislative item is S. Res. 109, honoring and supporting women in North  
2 Africa and the Middle East. It was introduced by Senator Snowe, and its cosponsors  
3 include Senators Boxer and Durbin.

4           We have a number of nominations for critical positions, including Joseph  
5 Torsella, Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform; Dr.  
6 Suzan Johnson Cook, Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom; and  
7 nominees for ambassadorial postings in Turkmenistan, Kenya, Vietnam, and elsewhere.

8           I think they're all qualified nominees, so I want to try to move them. I  
9 understand, however, that someone may have a question on one nominee or another.  
10 I'm unaware of any of those requests at this time. So, a request for voting en bloc would  
11 be in order --

12           SENATOR BOXER. So moved.

13           THE CHAIRMAN. -- unless somebody wants to --

14           So moved? Is it seconded?

15           SENATOR CASEY. Second.

16           THE CHAIRMAN. If that -- is there anybody who wants to say anything about any  
17 of the nominees?

18           [No response.]

1 THE CHAIRMAN. If not, all those in favor, say aye.

2 [A chorus of ayes.]

3 THE CHAIRMAN. Opposed, nay.

4 [No response.]

5 THE CHAIRMAN. The ayes have it, and the nominees and the resolution is

6 APPROVED, EN BLOC.

7 I don't know of any other business to come before the committee. Is there?

8 You see, when everybody gets here rapidly, we get out of here rapidly.

9 [Laughter.]

10 THE CHAIRMAN. Well done, to all. Thank you very, very much.

11 We stand adjourned.

**[Whereupon, at 2:26 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]**