
BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS
113TH Congress, First Session

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

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:18 a.m. in Room S-116, The Capitol,
2 Hon. Robert Menendez, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 **PRESENT.** Senators Menendez (presiding), Boxer, Cardin, Shaheen, Coons, Udall,
4 Murphy, Kaine, Markey, Corker, Rubio, Johnson, Flake, and Paul.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** This business meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
6 will come to order. We have a substantial agenda. I want to thank all of our members
7 who are here to help the committee do its work.

8 Let me thank Senator Corker and his staff for their hard work and collaboration
9 on the two bills, seven resolutions, and ten nominations before us. Senator Corker,
10 before I call for the first bill I am happy to entertain any of your comments.

11 **SENATOR CORKER.** I appreciate the way you and your staff have worked with us. I
12 wish the rest of the Senate was operating in the same way. I will just stop with that.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Amen to that.

14 With that, without objection, let me begin with the Egypt Assistance Reform Act
15 of 2013 (S. 1857). In my view it is critical that we strike a balance between signaling the
16 enduring U.S. commitment to Egypt while conditioning future assistance against both
17 security and democratic governance benchmarks. It is also my view that in this time of
18 transition we need to reassess our assistance to Egypt and how we can work with the
19 Egyptian Government and people to support their ongoing efforts towards an inclusive,
20 representative, and capable government.

1 For this reason, the bill before us requires the State Department to work across
2 the U.S. Government, with Congress, and with Egypt to deliver strategies on reforming
3 assistance. The current law has required the suspension of all U.S. military and
4 economic assistance to Egypt until the election of a democratically elected government.
5 There are no waivers or allowances for the progress and milestones that Egypt's
6 government achieves in the interim. Given the scale of U.S. aid and the ongoing
7 strategic significance of a stable, prosperous Egypt, this total shutdown does not serve,
8 in my view, U.S. or Egypt's interests.

9 Further, under the unique circumstances of Egypt's cash flow financing
10 arrangement, current sanctions prohibit the U.S. from continuing to make payments to
11 U.S. manufacturers for arms contracts for Egypt with already appropriated funds for
12 that purpose, even when those arms are not being delivered to Egypt under the
13 administration's suspension of deliveries. The U.S. Government could begin to default
14 on these contracts as soon as late January, incurring as much as \$2 billion in financial
15 penalties that the U.S. taxpayer would ultimately be asked to bear.

16 The administration has requested legislative relief from existing assistance
17 restrictions, and the bill before us grants that relief, but strikes, I believe, a necessary
18 balance between engagement and conditionality. It maintains flexible restrictions on
19 arms sales and deliveries, as well as direct economic support to Egypt's government,
20 until various conditions relating to Egypt's support for the Camp David Accords,
21 counterterrorism cooperation, and progress toward the restoration of democracy, and
22 political protections for religious minorities and women are certified.

23 It also gives the President time-limited waivers for such assistance if it is in the
24 national security interest of the United States. Finally, it requires the administration to
25 design strategies to reform U.S. bilateral and economic assistance to Egypt to both make

1 it more responsive to Egypt's actual needs as much as a greater emphasis on developing
2 counterterrorism capabilities.

3 So without objection, let me call up the Egypt Assistance Reform Act. This bill is
4 a chairman's mark, and I understand that this final agreed upon version has been
5 shared with all staff. This final version of the bill incorporates amendments offered by
6 Senator Flake, Senator Markey, and Senator Rubio to the original draft text, and I
7 appreciate all of the members who have offered that, who worked productively with us
8 to come to a bipartisan compromise in this respect.

9 Senator Corker, do you have any comment?

10 **SENATOR CORKER.** Yes, sir. I think this addresses many of the issues that we have
11 all been wrestling with over the last several months. I think it more fully aligns U.S.
12 interests in a way that is appropriate. It moves the coup language appropriately away
13 from appropriations bills that come up annually to the Foreign Service Assistance Act,
14 which I think is appropriate. And as was mentioned, Senator Rubio, Senator Flake,
15 Senator Markey, yourself, obviously, ourselves, have all been involved in trying to get it
16 to this place.

17 So I think this is a good piece of legislation that hits the mark, calls our
18 government to come in. In the future there will have to be coup determinations. We
19 cannot just sit on the sidelines and not decide whether it is or is not. But it also gives the
20 appropriate flexibility, I think, necessary to the administration.

21 So I thank you for that, and I urge all my colleagues to vote yes.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Paul.

23 **SENATOR PAUL.** I think it is a mistake to have less restrictions on foreign aid. I
24 think we should have more restrictions on foreign aid. We have restrictions that we
25 occasionally have put in place and they are often cited as making our foreign aid more
26 appropriate or less likely to be abused.

1 The Leahy language was added years ago that said that the country had to be
2 acting appropriately with regard to human and religious liberties. Well, with that, in
3 the midst of Egypt imprisoning 16 of our nongovernmental workers, Hillary Clinton
4 approved that they were adhering, and she certified that. So you're taking any teeth out
5 of the restrictions.

6 We have restrictions now that say we're not going to give money after a military
7 coup. Even with the restrictions in place, it was like pulling teeth to get the President to
8 actually adhere to the law, and we had a big debate over whether we would adhere to
9 the law. Now we're going to weaken the law and say that the President can have a
10 waiver and get around these laws.

11 It's already a problem; there's not enough teeth in restrictions over foreign aid.
12 So while 16 Americans were actually under the threat of persecution and imprisonment
13 in Egypt, we were certifying that they were fine with human rights because basically
14 nobody wants to cut down the flow of money to weapons merchants, many American
15 weapons merchants, that are selling weapons to Egypt. It's just a flow and a circle of
16 money, but do we really think that somehow it's better for Egyptians on the street to get
17 tear gassed with tear gas made in Pennsylvania that we pay for?

18 Do we think Egypt somehow is going to be safer? They've got 4,000 tanks. Do
19 we need to buy them some more tanks? Or is this part of a circle of money to enrich
20 people who make tanks and make tear gas and make planes? Do we really think Egypt
21 needs more fighter jets? For what reason? Who's going to attack Egypt? Egypt might
22 attack some of our real allies in the region, like Israel, but I don't see anybody attacking
23 Egypt or under threat. Do they really need more tanks? Do they need more tear gas?

24 A lot of the stuff we call counterterrorism that we're giving to them, there may be
25 some truly bad people that they might use it on, but they might also use it on protesters
26 in their street. There's hundreds of thousands of people who have been rioting in the

1 streets of Cairo, and they're unhappy with authoritarianism, either Muslim Brotherhood
2 authoritarianism or the generals. But we're going to give more money for more tear
3 gas.

4 I think it's a big mistake to give the President more wiggle room, any President, I
5 don't care whether it's a Democrat or a Republican, to give them more wiggle room to
6 say — and we're saying you have to certify it's for national security reasons. Well, they
7 certified that Egypt was doing fine when they were threatening to imprison 16
8 Americans, and we said, oh, no problem with religious liberty or liberty over there.

9 It's a big mistake. We need more restrictions on foreign aid not less. So I think
10 this is a step backwards, not a step forward, and I recommendation a no vote.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I appreciate the Senator's concerns. Let me just say some specifics
12 of the legislation that members should be aware of. No. 1, the legislation now requires
13 the Secretary of State to make a determination of whether a coup has occurred 30 days
14 after receiving credible information that that coup may have taken place. That has been
15 somewhat amorphous. The legislation actually makes the Secretary make such a
16 determination.

17 Second, there is a list of nine different elements under which the Secretary of
18 State has to certify to Congress that providing such assistance is in the national security
19 interest, and that Egypt has done a series of elements, all of which I think is in the vital
20 national security interests of the United States. They are located within the bill. I won't
21 take the time of the committee to read it all.

22 But I think that that strikes the balance that the Senator is concerned about,
23 although I appreciate his comments.

24 Senator Cardin.

25 **SENATOR CARDIN.** I was just going to make an observation. This is not about
26 American military sales. What this is about is a strategic partner of the United States in

1 a very, very difficult part of the world. Egypt has been an important partner to the
2 United States in moving forward with peace. Recently we've seen them take actions in
3 regard to security within the Sinai. They have entered into a peace agreement with
4 Israel. They have been very important strategic partners.

5 We know that they're going through extremely difficult times. We understand
6 that, and we don't know what's going to happen during the next few years. We are
7 hopeful.

8 I just want to thank the chairman and the ranking member because I think what
9 you've done here in presenting a bill that outlines the conditions on which our
10 participation can continue is the right way to go. It spells out very clearly the
11 expectations, and the administration understands that. It's workable, so that we know
12 that it can be effective.

13 The prior circumstances were such that they had to find creative ways in order to
14 try to advance U.S. interests. Here we have told them how to advance U.S. interests. So
15 I think this is what the proper role of the United States Congress is about, and I think
16 everyone on this committee hopes that at the end of the day Egypt will have free and
17 fair elections, Egypt will maintain its obligations with Israel, that Egypt will provide
18 basic freedom for NGO's, etcetera. But just as important, that's spelled out in this
19 legislation, and that's why I think the chairman and the ranking member have done the
20 right thing, and I support them.

21 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Any other members seeking recognition on the legislation?

22 **SENATOR FLAKE.** There is a degree of ad hoc-ness as to whether this waiver was
23 issued or how they issued it. I just want to say I appreciate you including the language
24 that requires the State Department to actually articulate why it's in our vital U.S.
25 interests. At least that means we have a better situation, so I appreciate that.

26 **SENATOR PAUL.** Mr. Chairman, one more quick point.

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Let me — I'm trying to go back and forth, and then I'd be happy to
2 turn to the Senator again.

3 Does anyone on this side? Senator Markey.

4 **SENATOR MARKEY.** Thank you. Again, I just want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
5 you Senator Corker, for including the language on certifying that Egypt is in
6 compliance with all of their obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty on
7 an ongoing basis. Given the region that they're in and the unfolding drama in that
8 region, I thank you for including that language.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I appreciate your leadership in that regard.

10 Senator Paul.

11 **SENATOR PAUL.** Some reference was made to whether or not they're in compliance
12 with the Camp David Accords. My understanding of this is that the contingency that
13 they are in compliance with the Camp David Accords can be waived for two
14 consecutive 100-day periods. So the President can go ahead and waive these
15 contingencies. You're allowing the President within this to waive contingencies on
16 whether they are or are not in compliance with Camp David.

17 I never was really clear whether the Muslim Brotherhood was in favor of the
18 Camp David Accords when they were, and yet we still — everybody keeps arguing for
19 more money, no matter who's in charge. But this bill specifically I think increases the
20 power of the President to waive things, including a contingency that they're in
21 compliance with the Camp David Accords.

22 **SENATOR CARDIN.** If I could just —

23 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Cardin.

24 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Let me just respond briefly. I disagree with the Senator's
25 interpretation. I think we are very clear that Egypt must comply with its obligations
26 under Camp David in order to receive continued aid from the United States. There are

1 certain provisions in this bill that are standard in executive-legislative relations, but I
2 think it's very clear from the point of view of the United States Congress, if this is
3 enacted, that Egypt will continue to see they must be in compliance with their
4 obligations under Camp David.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Anyone else?

6 **SENATOR CORKER.** I'd just close by saying I can assure you from my standpoint that
7 this has nothing to do with foreign military sales. It's about making sure we have a
8 rigorous standard in place and that we actually have standards that we adhere to. I
9 think this is a step forward and I think this committee has worked hard to get there, and
10 I think there's always the issue of the rub between the legislative branch putting
11 restrictions on and the executive branch having some degree of flexibility.

12 I will say in this case it's based on our vital national interests, and there are
13 certain standards that they have to go by in asserting that.

14 So I thank the chairman, and I do urge a yes vote. I realize it won't be
15 unanimous, but I appreciate the vigorous participation.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there any other member seeking recognition?

17 [No response.]

18 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, the question is on the passage of the Egypt Assistance
19 Reform Act. I'm not aware of a request for a roll call vote.

20 **SENATOR PAUL.** If we could have a roll call vote, I'd appreciate it.

21 **THE CHAIRMAN.** There's a request for a roll call vote. The Clerk will call the roll.

22 **MS. OURSLER.** Mrs. Boxer.

23 **SENATOR BOXER.** Aye.

24 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Cardin.

25 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Aye.

26 **MS. OURSLER.** Mrs. Shaheen.

1 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Aye.
2 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Coons.
3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye by proxy.
4 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Durbin.
5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** There is no vote to be reported.
6 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Udall.
7 **SENATOR UDALL.** Aye.
8 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Murphy.
9 **SENATOR MURPHY.** Aye.
10 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Kaine.
11 **SENATOR KAINE.** Aye.
12 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Markey.
13 **SENATOR MARKEY.** Aye.
14 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Corker.
15 **SENATOR CORKER.** Aye.
16 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Risch.
17 **SENATOR CORKER.** Aye by proxy.
18 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Rubio.
19 **SENATOR RUBIO.** Aye.
20 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Johnson.
21 **SENATOR JOHNSON.** Aye.
22 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Flake.
23 **SENATOR FLAKE.** Aye.
24 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. McCain.
25 **SENATOR CORKER.** Aye by proxy.
26 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Barrasso.

1 **SENATOR CORKER.** Aye by proxy.

2 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Paul.

3 **SENATOR PAUL.** No.

4 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Chairman.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye.

6 **MS. OURSLER.** 16 ayes, one nay.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The legislation is approved and sent to the full Senate.

8 Let me turn to, while we have a full quorum here, to — there are three nominees.
9 They are Dana Hyde to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Corporation,
10 Mark Lopes to be the Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a
11 term of three years, and Keith Harper to be the United States Representative to the UN
12 Human Rights Council.

13 Are there any Senators wishing to speak on any of these nominations?

14 **SENATOR CORKER.** Mr. Chairman, I would be fine myself if the first two went by
15 roll call. I do think we should have a roll call vote on Harper. I know we have a
16 number of dissenters, including myself, on that nomination.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** You mean the first two by voice vote?

18 **SENATOR CORKER.** Yes, sir.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there any other member wishing to speak to any of the
20 nominees?

21 [No response.]

22 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, I'll entertain en bloc the nominations of Dana Hyde and
23 Mark Lopes to their respective positions.

24 **SENATOR CARDIN.** So moved.

25 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a second?

26 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Second.

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Second. All those in favor say aye.

2 [Chorus of ayes.]

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All those opposed will say nay.

4 [No response.]

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it and the nominees will be reported out.

6 The Clerk will call the roll on Keith Harper to be the U.S. Representative to the

7 UN Human Rights Council.

8 **MS. OURSLER.** Mrs. Boxer.

9 **SENATOR BOXER.** Aye.

10 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Cardin.

11 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Aye.

12 **MS. OURSLER.** Mrs. Shaheen.

13 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Aye.

14 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Coons.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye by proxy.

16 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Durbin.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** There is no proxy.

18 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Udall.

19 **SENATOR UDALL.** Aye.

20 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Murphy.

21 **SENATOR MURPHY.** Aye.

22 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Kaine.

23 **SENATOR KAINE.** Aye.

24 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Markey.

25 **SENATOR MARKEY.** Aye.

26 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Corker.

1 **SENATOR CORKER.** No.

2 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Risch.

3 **SENATOR CORKER.** No by proxy.

4 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Rubio.

5 **SENATOR RUBIO.** No.

6 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Johnson.

7 **SENATOR JOHNSON.** No.

8 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Flake.

9 **SENATOR FLAKE.** No.

10 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. McCain.

11 **SENATOR CORKER.** No by proxy.

12 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Barrasso.

13 **SENATOR CORKER.** No by proxy.

14 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Paul.

15 **SENATOR PAUL.** No.

16 **MS. OURSLER.** Mr. Chairman.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye.

18 **MS. OURSLER.** Nine ayes, eight nays.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The nominee is referred, approved, to the full Senate, reported to
20 the full Senate.

21 Let me return back to the other pending legislation and call up S. 653, the Special
22 Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and
23 South Asia. The bill establishes a special envoy to promote religious tolerance in an
24 area where sectarian conflict has endangered, and in some areas decimated, vibrant
25 Christian, Sufi, and other minority religious communities. It is a bill that the chairman
26 supports.

1 Is there any other? Senator Corker.

2 **SENATOR CORKER.** I'll be brief and say that Senator Blunt, not on this committee,
3 but has pushed hard for this. I know there are numbers of other people who care about
4 this. I'd also say this is permissive. It's not mandatory. It allows the State Department
5 to set this up. It doesn't mandate that they do so.

6 And I thank you for your cooperation.

7 **SENATOR KAINE.** Mr. Chairman.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Kaine.

9 **SENATOR KAINE.** I am a co-sponsor of this legislation and I just want to
10 acknowledge, in this region whether the religious minority that is targeted is Sufi,
11 Christian, Jew, Baha'i, Ahmadiyya Muslim, or, depending on the circumstance in the
12 country, Sunni or Shia, there is a significant challenge with oppression of religious
13 minorities in the region. This permissive authority is important.

14 Just on a personal note, I've worked on this with a colleague on the House side, a
15 Republican by the name of Frank Wolf. Some of you know Frank. I told him yesterday
16 we were marking up this bill, and he told me that he was announcing yesterday that he
17 is retiring after 34 years in the House and not running again in 2014 so he can spend full
18 time on this issue.

19 He's decided that the other issues are not as important as this one, so he's going
20 to go full-time on this issue. So I just wanted to acknowledge Frank's done a lot of good
21 work on this.

22 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Rubio.

23 **SENATOR RUBIO.** I just want to thank both of you for bringing this here. Many in
24 the general public still don't realize what a crisis this is around the world, but this
25 region in particular is troubling. So I hope that the President does appoint the envoy

1 because I think that this is an issue that deserves attention. So I think you for bringing
2 this forward.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Does any other Senator wish to address the issue?

4 [No response.]

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, the question is on the passing of the bill. Is there a second?

6 **SENATOR KAINE.** Second.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Second. All those in favor will say aye.

8 [Chorus of ayes.]

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Those opposed will say no.

10 [No response.]

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it and the legislation is referred to the Senate.

12 Next, there are a series of resolutions which I would hope to take up en bloc.

13 However, one of those four resolutions, there is a letter that has been presented to the
14 chair from Senator Risch requesting that the resolution on Georgia be held over until
15 the next business meeting. So under the committee's normal procedures, we will honor
16 that request, which leaves us the following resolutions:

17 S. Res. 314, which commemorates and supports the goals of World AIDS Day.

18 I'm pleased to support Senator Coons in this resolution. As my colleagues know, we
19 recently reauthorized PEPFAR and the President signed our bill into law, and Senator
20 Coons resolution marks an additional important statement by this committee about the
21 importance of continued focus on this critical issue.

22 S. Res. 288 supports enhanced maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and
23 encourages increased cooperation among the United States and the West and Central
24 African nations to fight armed robbery at sea, piracy, and other maritime threats. The
25 resolution is timely, given the increased number of pirate attacks in the Gulf of Guinea
26 over the past year or two, and it has a series of actions that members can read about.

1 S. Res. 312 calls on the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance
2 in the case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest-held United States citizens in our
3 Nation's history. It calls on the Iranian Government to increase its cooperation with the
4 United States in its search as a humanitarian gesture, and also calls on the President and
5 our allies to raise the issue at every opportunity.

6 Then S. Res. 75, which condemns the Government of Iran's state-sponsored
7 persecution of the Baha'i minority and its continued violation of International
8 Covenants on Human Rights, for which Senator Durbin has a series of amendments,
9 which I will — which we would propose to consider together. In his absence, I'll move
10 his amendments for him, on both — on that piece of legislation; as well as S. Res. 318, a
11 resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the critical need for political
12 reform in Bangladesh, and for other purposes.

13 So I'd like to consider all of these resolutions en bloc, as amended by Senator
14 Durbin's amendments on Bangladesh and the Baha'i, and I'm happy to listen to the
15 comments of any member. Senator Rubio.

16 **SENATOR RUBIO.** I just wanted to thank you for the Levinson resolution. Mr.
17 Levinson is a resident of Florida, Coral Springs. I think his story has been documented
18 over the last few days in the press. His son is here with us today; Dan Levinson is here
19 and we recognize him. Thank you for being with us today. I just wanted you to know
20 this issue remains a priority for every member of this committee and the United States
21 Senate, and we won't stop until it reaches an appropriate resolution and he's reunited
22 with his family.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I think we all join you in those views, and we have the resolution
24 as the beginning of an effort to express the committee's views on that.

25 Senator Cardin.

26 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Are you including S. Res. 319, on the Ukraine, in that?

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** No. That resolution, as I said before, is being —

2 **SENATOR CARDIN.** I thought that was on Georgia.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** On Georgia.

4 **SENATOR CARDIN.** This is the Ukraine.

5 **SENATOR CORKER.** It's the one that's down at the bottom. I think it's okay.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes, I'm sorry. We are including S. Res. 319, a resolution
7 supporting the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign
8 an association agreement with the European Union.

9 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Could I ask consent that I be added as a co-sponsor?

10 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Without objection.

11 Any other members who wish to be recognized?

12 **SENATOR CORKER.** Mr. Chairman, if I could.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Corker.

14 **SENATOR CORKER.** I know Senator Risch asked the Georgia issue to be withheld. I
15 think he supports that effort. He just wants to look into some recent developments on
16 the ground.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So S. 317 is held until the next business meeting.

18 If no other members seek recognition, I'd ask that the resolutions be considered
19 en bloc.

20 [No response.]

21 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a second?

22 **SENATOR BOXER.** Second.

23 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Second. All those in favor will say aye.

24 [Chorus of ayes.]

25 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed will say no.

26 [No response.]

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and the resolutions are reported to the full
2 Senate.

3 I ask unanimous consent to allow the staff to make any necessary technical and
4 conforming changes to the legislation we have agreed to. Is there any objection?

5 [No response.]

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Hearing none, the motion is agreed to. With that, this concludes
7 our business meeting. Thank you all for the work throughout the year and have a great
8 holiday.

[Whereupon, at 2:42 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]