

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

BUSINESS MEETING

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U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:37 a.m., in S-116, The Capitol, Hon.

James E. Risch, chairman of the committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Risch, Ricketts, McCormick, Daines, Hagerty, Barrasso, Lee, Paul, Cruz, Scott, Curtis, Cornyn, Shaheen, Coons, Murphy, Kaine, Merkley, and Rosen.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES E. RISCH,
U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO**

The Chairman: The United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

Today, we have eight nominees. Before we start, I should tell the committee that next week, we are hoping to have, and very likely will have, a briefing by the State Department on situations in the world. So, I am working on that for next week. We hope to have that.

Today, what we have is eight noms. As we all know, you got to have -- this shouldn't be the rule, but it is. The parliamentarian says you got to have roll call votes. So there is -- we don't -- we have only got one of them, apparently, that we have unanimity on, so we are going to have to do each one of them, but we will take them one at a time and just go through as quickly as we can.

With that, we will consider William Long to be ambassador to Iceland. Is there --

Senator Shaheen: I would like to say --

The Chairman: Respond?

Senator Shaheen: Yes.

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The Chairman: Please.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JEANNE SHAHEEN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Senator Shaheen: I just want to -- I appreciate the effort to get a briefing for all the members of this committee. I think that is really important, but I also want to register concern about the fact that there was so little planning by the State Department to make sure that embassy personnel were safe, to make sure that Americans were able to be evacuated from the Middle East. There was clearly no planning in advance on something that we should have realized was going to be an issue. So, I hope we can get some answers at the briefing that will help us.

I also, again, want to register the concern that in those 14 countries in the Middle East where the administration has said we should evacuate, only six have ambassadors in place, and only four of those ambassadors are ambassadors who have diplomatic experience dealing with these kinds of crises. So, we have more than 32 posts that still have no nominees in that region, so I just --

The Chairman: That is --

Senator Shaheen: I would hope that the State Department would get the message that they would put forward career nominees if they don't have other nominees so that we can fill these positions because, for sure, we know China has got people everywhere. And I would just call attention to the report -- we updated the China report that we did last year, "The Price of Retreat 2.0," which further documents the impact of policy decisions that we have been making and what it has done to improve the ability of China to compete with the United States. So, I would urge -- I appreciate that our Republican colleagues are not interested in signing on, but I do think there is some really important information here that should be a wakeup call for all of us as we are looking at what we need to address the

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competition from China, and there are copies available for anybody who wants it. So, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Ricketts: Where are the copies?

Senator Shaheen: Pardon me?

Senator Ricketts: Where are the copies?

Senator Shaheen: Copies?

The Chairman: Senator Coons.

Senator Coons: Just briefly, Senator Ricketts chaired and I was ranking on an ambassadorial nomination hearing. I am happy to do that, if we can move forward career nominees to fill some of these positions. I understand scheduling can be hard. Half of the folks we are voting on today, Senator Ricketts and I chaired and I was ranking on the confirmation hearing just in the last few days. We need to fill these posts. I could not agree more strongly with Senator Shaheen.

All of you who travel realize that if we confirmed an ambassador, their ability to engage with other countries is dramatically better. Even though we do not really see a huge difference between a chargé, most other countries do, and in an emergency, as we are now seeing, where there are withdrawals, the State Department, as we have seen in other tragic circumstances, when we tell the military to do something, they get busy and they do it. When we tell the State Department, it requires a little more of a -- and some of these withdrawals were really not well prepared with plans and with ambassadors that would have moved better. And so, I am volunteering to be ranking on more confirmation hearings.

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The Chairman: Thank you, Senator, and -- but let me comment on that just briefly. I appreciate the subcommittee is willing to hear these because we do move them quicker that way.

Senator Coons: Yes.

The Chairman: So, thank you because I think we have got good cooperation on many of them.

Yes, Senator Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: I just want to ask my friend, Senator Coons, why does that not apply to non-career ambassadors, too? Do we not need representation in those countries?

Senator Coons: Yes, we do. We do not -- we did a --

Senator Cornyn: So, why not -- are you distinguishing between --

Senator Coons: We had non-career --

Senator Cornyn: Are you distinguishing between career Foreign Service officers?

Senator Coons: We did a mix of both. In this -- in the confirmation hearing we just did, we did a mix of both, career Foreign Service and political.

Senator Cornyn: I just want to make sure we all understand that it is important to have representation --

Senator Coons: Yes.

Senator Cornyn: -- whether they are career --

Senator Shaheen: Right.

Senator Cornyn: -- or not career.

The Chairman: And I do not make -- I do not distinguish between them. I mean, there -- there is no difference. The President has the ability under the Constitution to appoint --

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Senator Kaine: Mr. Chair --

Senator Shaheen: And just to be clear, I am not making a difference on whether they are career or political either, and I think the Chairman can tell you that.

The Chairman: And that is true.

Senator Shaheen: We have been very cooperative.

Senator Cornyn: God bless you.

The Chairman: Well, you have -- you mentioned differences --

Senator Shaheen: Yes.

The Chairman: -- but it wasn't based on the fact that they were career or --

Senator Shaheen: Right. Right.

[Laughter.]

The Chairman: Thank you.

Yes, Senator Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Just very, very short. I just came back from Australia during February, and this committee has been very, very unified on U.S.-Australia relationship. The President had a great meeting with the prime minister in October. It was a real success viewed that way, but that is an example of an ally, and what a plum position. I mean, it is a plum position for a career or a political person to go to Australia. There still has not been a nomination from the White House. A whole lot of people who would do a really good job in Australia, I think, would be -- you know, would be thrilled to get that nomination. So, to the extent that, you know, you are chatting with folks in the White House, and you have got more influence than we do, that is a post where it would be -- really serve America well to have a good ambassador there.

The Chairman: Could not agree more.

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Senator Rosen: Can I just ask a question?

The Chairman: Yeah.

Senator Rosen: Do you think in some of these, we will say hot spots, particularly in the Gulf, having someone -- I am only distinguishing career versus political -- do they right away up to speed on how you would take care of what is going on in -- right now in the middle of conflict?

The Chairman: Well, can you -- I do not understand. You mean are they are trained to do this?

Senator Rosen: Are they ready to kind of just --

The Chairman: The political?

Senator Rosen: -- because they are career. The political may be coming --

The Chairman: Yeah.

Senator Rosen: -- from somewhere else having to learn all the diplomatic procedures.

Bill, you have been ambassador.

The Chairman: Yeah.

Senator Rosen: Maybe you could speak to that. I just --

Senator Hagerty: So, they --

Senator Rosen: Like, are they just ready to kind of jump in and get the -- get the ball moving fast in some of these hot spots?

Senator Hagerty: I am glad you raised the question, Jacky, because I think there is a perception that the political appointees are wholly untrained and unqualified and they just stuck there because they are a donor, and that is not -- that could be the case --

Senator Rosen: Right.

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Senator Hagerty: -- in certain circumstances. But there is a training program that every ambassador goes through whether they are career or political. It takes about a month to go through that.

Senator Rosen: Right.

Senator Hagerty: You are studying and preparing for the confirmation process. You are getting, you know, murder boarded and prepared, and you are spending time at the State Department with everybody that has --

Senator Rosen: Yes.

Senator Hagerty: -- you know, input that particular area.

Senator Rosen: Right.

Senator Hagerty: So, the hope is that whoever is the President is selecting people that have keen negotiating skills, for example. That is what I have done for my entire life.

Senator Rosen: Right.

Senator Hagerty: You know, reasonable intellect, and probably know something about the region. I have lived there before.

Senator Rosen: Right.

Senator Hagerty: I worked with Boston Consulting. They sent me out there for 3 years.

Senator Rosen: Right.

Senator Hagerty: So, that is the goal, I think, of what we are trying to do is get people who are -- and I will make a distinction here, too. The political appointees are viewed differently in the country versus the careers, to the extent that they have direct access to the President.

Senator Rosen: I agree.

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Senator Hagerty: And so, I was aggressively and under much criticism, I supported Caroline Kennedy to go to Australia, I supported Eric Garcetti to go to India, I supported Rahm Emanuel to replace me in Japan because it is critical, and they were people that the President could call on. They would have the credibility.

Senator Rosen: Right, who understood first-hand what it --

Senator Hagerty: Exactly. Exactly.

Senator Rosen: Yes.

Senator Hagerty: So, I see it as a feature, not a bug --

Senator Rosen: Well, thank you. I --

Senator Hagerty: -- to have somebody that has that sort of relationship with the President --

Senator Rosen: Yes. Yes.

Senator Hagerty: -- and the countries appreciate that, too.

Senator Rosen: Yes.

Senator Hagerty: I am not trying to diminish people that are --

Senator Rosen: No, no, no. I think that is -- just I think it is good to have the discussion --

Senator Hagerty: Yes.

Senator Rosen: -- as we think about it, so thank you.

Senator Hagerty: Yes.

The Chairman: Having some modest understanding on how the process works, I can tell you, the President has a list for all these countries, and people put in for these countries. I have never seen a person put in for a country that they did not know anything about.

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Senator Rosen: Right.

The Chairman: There is usually a reason they want to serve there --

Senator Rosen: They want it.

The Chairman: -- for a political kind of appointment.

Senator Rosen: Right.

The Chairman: On the other hand, on the -- on the other side --

Senator Rosen: Yes.

The Chairman: -- these are people that have -- that have worked at that desk,
worked that portfolio --

Senator Rosen: Right.

The Chairman: -- so they know. Everyone is unique --

Senator Rosen: Right.

The Chairman: -- and a lot of times, the people that want to be appointed, be an
ambassador may know the country, but there are reservations about whether they -- that
person should be the ambassador there, so.

Senator Rosen: Right.

The Chairman: But this is --

Senator Rosen: -- to the committee to have a good understanding of --

The Chairman: I have been --

[Cross-talking.]

The Chairman: I have been to -- I have been to some of those schools, and I can tell
you it is a --

Senator Rosen: Yeah.

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The Chairman: This is not just a deal where the President says, oh -- I do not know how many of you watched the --

Senator Coons: "The Diplomat."

The Chairman: "The Diplomat."

Senator Coons: That is the one thing that offended me --

[Cross-talking.]

The Chairman: My wife wanted me to watch that. I watched the first 10 minutes. The President appointed her in the morning. In the afternoon, she was on the plane on the way to wherever that she was going. Anyway, that is not -- the same thing.

Senator Rosen: That is a show, right. That is a show. Yeah, it is 5 minutes.

The Chairman: But we have got people who have commitments, so if it is okay --

Senator Rosen: Okay.

The Chairman: -- let us move along.

Senator Rosen: Thank you. Thank you for the information. I appreciate it.

Senator Shaheen: Let me just respond to Rick's question. We will make sure that those reports -- those China reports are distributed to everybody's office today.

Senator Scott of Florida: Great. Thank you.

The Chairman: Okay. Thank you. Appreciate that. All right.

So, let us start with William Long. Is there a motion to send him to the floor with a do pass?

Senator Ricketts: So moved.

The Chairman: Moved.

Seconded?

Senator Scott of Florida: [Raises hand.]

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The Chairman: Debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: There being no debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

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Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Rosen: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

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Senator Shaheen: Mr. Chairman, I just -- I mean to speak to Mr. Long before we took that vote, and I have been concerned about, as I said in his hearing, about some of his statements on Iceland. I think he understands, or at least he said he understood, that it was not a joke, that he was very serious about being ambassador. And I think -- I am willing to take him at his word, but I am going to hold him to that, and I would hope that if he acts in any way inappropriately, that you will join me and others on the committee in calling him out for that.

The Chairman: I think that is a fair request, so we agree.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 13. The noes are 9.

The Chairman: Motion passed.

Is there a motion to send Troy Edgar to the floor with a do pass? Is there a motion?

Senator Ricketts: Aye. So moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded to send Troy Edgar to the floor with a do pass.

Debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: No debate. The clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

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Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

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Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Rosen: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chair, the yeas are 12. The noes are 10.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

Wesley Brooks to be ambassador over Oceans and et cetera. Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: Second?

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: Can you stick with us for a little bit?

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Senator McCormick: I thought it was -- yeah, I think we are good. Do you need me

--

The Chairman: No. Thank you.

Senator McCormick: I got to go speak to --

The Chairman: We are good. I got it.

Senator McCormick: You got it?

The Chairman: Your speech --

Senator McCormick: Yes.

The Chairman: Thank you.

Moved and seconded that Wesley Brooks will be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation. Is there debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: No debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

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Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

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Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Rosen: Yes.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 15. The noes are 7.

The Chairman: The motion is passed. Mr. Brooks will be sent to the floor with a do confirm recommendation.

We have before us Mr. Robert Sweeney to be U.S. director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of ambassador.

Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: And been seconded. Is there debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: There being no debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

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The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: Aye.

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The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Shaheen: No by --

Senator Merkley: No.

Senator Shaheen: Oh, whoops. You are here.

[Laughter.]

The Chairman: Either way, he is a no.

Senator Shaheen: He is quiet. He slipped in.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Rosen: Yes.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The clerk will report.

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The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 16. The noes are 6.

The Chairman: Mr. Sweeney will be referred to the floor with a do confirm recommendation.

We are halfway there. We now have Frank Garcia before us. Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: Is there a second?

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded.

Senator Coons: Could I briefly speak to this nominee?

The Chairman: Yes.

It has been moved and seconded that Mr. Garcia be sent to the floor with a do confirm recommendation.

Is there debate?

Senator Coons.

Senator Coons: Mr. Chairman, I -- look, I think it is critical that we have the assistant secretary for African Affairs. There is so much going on on this continent. While his background is principally working on the House side in Intelligence, I am taking him at his word that he is willing to meet and to consult. There are critical security issues, development issues, human rights issues to attend to. So, I will support him, expecting and hoping that we will able to develop a constructive relationship.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator.

Is there further debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: There being none, the clerk will call the roll.

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The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

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The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Rosen: Yes.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 16. The noes are 6.

The Chairman: The motion is passed. Mr. Garcia will be sent to the floor with a do confirm recommendation.

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We now have Lee Lipton to be ambassador to the Philippines. Is there a motion?

Voice: Motion.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded that Mr. Lipton be sent to the floor with a do confirm recommendation.

Is there debate?

Senator Shaheen.

Senator Shaheen: Well, like some of the other nominees today, I do have concerns about Mr. Lipton's lack of experience, but I appreciated his commitment to learning and to understanding how important the Philippines are as an ally of the United States, particularly given what is happening in the Indo-Pacific. So, I do intend to vote for him today.

The Chairman: Thank you.

Senator Hagerty: Mr. Chairman, just to --

The Chairman: Senator Hagerty.

Senator Hagerty: -- Senator Shaheen's point, I have volunteered to meet with him and spend time with him. As some of you know, I spent a great deal of time getting [inaudible] back for America, that who was on board was critically important. I agree with you in terms of the sensitivity, and we will work with him.

Senator Shaheen: Great. Thank you.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator Hagerty. Important.

Is there further debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: There being none, the clerk will call the roll.

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The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

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Business Meeting

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The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Rosen: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 14, and the noes are 8.

The Chairman: The motion is passed. Mr. Lipton will be sent to the floor with a do confirm recommendation.

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We now have before us Asel Roberts to be ambassador to Slovenia. Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: Moved and?

Voices: Second.

The Chairman: Seconded.

Is there debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: There being no debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

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Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

[later changed his vote to Aye. See page 31]

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

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The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Rosen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 21, and the noes are 1.

The Chairman: The motion is passed. Mr. Roberts will be referred to the floor with a do confirm recommendation.

The last one, we have before us Mr. Jared Novelly to be ambassador to New Zealand, et cetera. Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: Is there a second?

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded that Mr. Novelly be sent to the floor with a do confirm recommendation.

Is there debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: Being no debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

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The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

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The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Booker: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Rosen: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 14. The noes are 8.

The Chairman: Motion has passed, and --

Senator Murphy: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: -- and Mr. Novelly will be sent to the floor with a do confirm recommendation. Senator --

Senator Murphy: Mr. Chairman, I think I got my nominees mixed up coming in a little bit late. If I could be recorded as an "aye" on Roberts and be recorded --

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The Chairman: You will be recorded as an "aye" on that.

Senator Murphy: -- as voting "present" on the prior nominees.

The Chairman: That will be fine.

Before we adjourn, you know, after this discussion on noms, this committee is an oversight committee, and if there enough interest on how that process works, we can talk either about a committee or, even more efficiently, maybe a subcommittee for anybody who wants to attend and have somebody or people in from the State Department to explain that process so we would have a deeper understanding of how that works. Just a thought. Let us discuss it whether or not here.

And, with that, the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:57 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]