

# **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Wednesday, April 9, 2025*

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:36 a.m., in Room SD-419. The Hon.

James E. Risch presiding.

**Present:** Senators Risch [presiding], Ricketts, Daines, Hagerty, Barrasso, Lee, Paul, Scott, Curtis, Cornyn, Shaheen, and Rosen.

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

**The Chairman:** The Foreign Relations Committee will come to order in a business meeting.

We have for consideration this morning five nominees. It has been requested we have a roll call vote on each of them. I respect the request. We are going to do that.

We are going to start with Monica Crowley. Is there a motion to send her to the floor with a confirmation?

**Senator Ricketts:** So moved.

**The Chairman:** It has been moved and been seconded. Is there debate?

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** There being nobody -- and you want a roll call vote?

**Senator Shaheen:** We would like a roll call vote, yes.

**The Chairman:** The clerk will call the roll call, please.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Ricketts?

**Senator Ricketts:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. McCormick?

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**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?

**The Chairman:** Aye by proxy.

**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:** Ms. Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** No.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Coons?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Murphy?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

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**The Clerk:** Mr. Kaine?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Merkley?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**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 in person.

[Laughter.]

**The Chairman:** Does that count for two?

**Senator Shaheen:** I think so.

**The Chairman:** Aye. Clerk will report.

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

**The Chairman:** The motion is passed. The floor will be informed.

The next one is going to be Mr. Warren Stephens. Is there a motion?

**Senator Ricketts:** So moved.

**The Chairman:** Second?

**Voice:** Second.

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**The Chairman:** There has been a motion and a second that Mr. Warren Stephens be sent to the floor with the recommendation he be confirmed.

Senator Shaheen, remarks?

**Senator Shaheen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I intend to vote for Mr. Stephens, but I just want to put into the record the concerns that I have regarding both the appointment of a special envoy and an ambassador to the United Kingdom.

I think it is a recipe for confusion, especially given the importance of AUKUS right now on the role of the United Kingdom and the United States.

I hope that this committee is going to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of the ambassador and special envoy are clearly delineated and that once the special envoy's temporary appointment concludes that this committee will have the opportunity to consider his nomination pursuant to the bipartisan law that requires Senate confirmation of special envoys.

**The Chairman:** Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

Certainly a legitimate request and we are going to have Senator Rubio here before very long and he can probably explain some of these things.

Is there further debate?

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** Being no further debate, we want a roll call on all of the --

**Senator Shaheen:** Yes, please.

**The Chairman:** The clerk will call the roll.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Ricketts?

**Senator Ricketts:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. McCormick?

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**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?

**The Chairman:** Aye by proxy.

**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:** Ms. Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Coons?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Murphy?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

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**The Clerk:** Mr. Kaine?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Merkley?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**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. Clerk will report.

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

**The Chairman:** The motion has passed. The floor will be so informed.

We will now have consideration for Mr. Thomas Barrack. Is there a motion?

**Senator Ricketts:** So moved.

**The Chairman:** Is there a second?

**Voice:** Second.

**The Chairman:** Been moved and seconded that Mr. Thomas Barrack be sent to the floor with the recommendation he be confirmed. Is there a debate?

**Senator Shaheen:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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**The Chairman:** Senator Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** I just want to put into the record I think it is very important that we get a U.S. ambassador to Ankara very quickly. I appreciate Mr. Barrack has committed to standing up for human rights and for advancing our security relationship with Türkiye.

But as we look at what is happening in Syria and throughout the rest of the Middle East, I think it is very important that, given the importance of Türkiye as an ally, that we have an ambassador there as soon as possible.

I intend to vote for Mr. Barrack.

**The Chairman:** Thank you, Senator. Well said.

Further debate?

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** There being none 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?

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**Senator Paul:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cruz?

**The Chairman:** Aye by proxy.

**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:** Ms. Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Coons?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Murphy?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Kaine?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Merkley?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Booker?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Schatz?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Van Hollen?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.



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**The Clerk:** Ms. Duckworth?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Ms. Rosen?

**Senator Rosen:** Yes.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** Aye. Clerk will report.

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

**The Chairman:** The motion has passed. The floor will be so informed.

We now have before us the appointment of Mr. Tilman Fertitta to the Italian Republic.

Is there a motion?

**Senator Ricketts:** So moved.

**The Chairman:** Is there a second?

**Voice:** So moved.

**The Chairman:** It has been moved and seconded that Mr. Fertitta be reported to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed. Is there debate?

[No response.]

**The Chairman:** There being none, 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?

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**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?

**The Chairman:** Aye by proxy.

**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:** Ms. Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Coons?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Murphy?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Kaine?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Merkley?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

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**The Clerk:** Mr. Booker?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye 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:** 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 18. The noes are four.

**The Chairman:** The motion has passed. Mr. Fertitta will be referred to the floor for confirmation consideration.

Lastly, we have David Perdue. Is there a motion?

**Senator Ricketts:** So moved.

**Voice:** So moved.

**The Chairman:** It has been moved and seconded that David Perdue be sent to the floor with a recommendation that he be confirmed as Ambassador to China.

Is there a 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?

**The Chairman:** Aye by proxy.

**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:** Ms. Shaheen?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Coons?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Murphy?

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**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Kaine?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Merkley?

**Senator Shaheen:** No by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Booker?

**Senator Shaheen:** Aye 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:** Aye by proxy.

**The Clerk:** Ms. Rosen?

**Senator Rosen:** Aye.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chair?

**The Chairman:** Aye. Clerk will report.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 18. The noes are four.

**The Chairman:** The motion has passed. David Perdue will be referred to the floor for possible confirmation.

That concludes the business meeting. The business meeting will be adjourned, and we will move now to a hearing for three of the President's nominees.

**[Whereupon, at 9:44 a.m., the business meeting was adjourned.]**