

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:06 a.m., in Room SD-419, the President's Room, Hon. James E. Risch presiding.

Present: Senators Risch [presiding], Ricketts, Daines, Hagerty, Barrasso, Lee, Paul, 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 Committee on Foreign Relations will come to order.

This morning we are going to do two things. We are going to have a business meeting and vote on five nominees and then we are going to proceed to the hearing on State Department reorganization.

So with that we will start with -- and we have agreed that we are going to have a roll call vote on each of these.

So we will start with the nomination of -- I am sorry. Yeah, I am sorry.

Senator Shaheen?

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

Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just wanted to briefly point out that all of the appointees this morning are political appointees.

Obviously, every president has the right to nominate whoever they would like but I think it is notable that we are six months into the administration and the committee has only received four career nominees, none of whom have moved forward.

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And given the personnel cuts and the lack of Senate-confirmed ambassadors at posts where China is active, I hope that we will advance those career nominees. I hope Secretary Rubio is -- and the White House are listening and that they will prioritize those career nominees so we can get people on their posts throughout the world.

Thank you.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator Shaheen, and I think --

Senator Cornyn: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Excuse me. Just a second, Senator Cornyn.

I think the criticism that we need to move the career people -- more career people is well-taken. Obviously, the President does have the ability to move the political ones, but with all due respect we are having a little trouble moving them on the floor anyway. We are backed up by 90. So that is my criticism.

But, look, I am -- and I have made specific requests that we move more careers because at least we ought to make the team -- the President's team as big as we can where we have modest agreement on who should hold those seats. So thank you for that.

Senator Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Mr. Chairman, you made my point. If our Democratic friends would simply cooperate more with us on expediting the confirmation of noncontroversial nominees across the floor we could get a whole lot more people on post.

It is really important to have the President's representative as a U.S. ambassador in a number of these countries around the country and this is not making -- not doing anything except delaying those and it is hurting the country, and I just wish our colleagues would do what traditionally we have done and that is to agree to voice votes or to expedite noncontroversial nominees.

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I understand they are going to pick their fights and more power to them, but I think it is a two-way street and I wish they would take that to heart.

Thank you.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator. We --

Senator Shaheen: May I respond?

The Chairman: Of course.

Senator Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Well, certainly I have been one of those who has urged that we move nominees to ambassadorships around the world as expeditiously as possible and urge people to vote against them if you do not like them.

But we need to move these people so we can get them on post. I would hope that maybe we could agree that if we have a number of career ambassadors we can move them and think about who else we might be able to move as part of that package.

But I would hope that we would make an effort to do this on both sides of the aisle.

Thank you.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator.

And I have discussed that with the President, with the State Department and others that the more we get, the easier it is to make a deal to move them along.

We are going to continue to try to do that and move them as quickly as we can. Thank you, everybody, for your thoughts on that.

So let us move the first nom Anjani Sinha forward to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore. Is there a motion?

Senator Ricketts: So moved.

The Chairman: Second?

Senator Barrasso: Second.

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The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded that the committee send Mr. Sinha to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

Is there a debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: There being no -- Senator Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Well, Mr. Chairman, I intend to vote against Dr. Sinha.

I think that there are a lot of nominees who face a learning curve on diplomacy and that is understandable, and I have supported many of those who take their responsibility seriously.

But what we saw at the hearing from Mr. Sinha was that he had failed to do his homework. That is not going to serve the United States well representing Singapore, which is important to the United States.

So I intend to vote against him.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator.

Further debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: There being no further 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.

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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?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

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 Coons: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

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Senator Shaheen: No by proxy. Do we have a proxy for Senator Booker?

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: Thank you. 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. I mean no.

[Laughter.]

Senator Rosen: Voting no.

[Laughter.]

The Chairman: It is easy to get caught up in the enthusiasm. I know the feeling.

Senator Shaheen: It is affecting the entire dais.

The Chairman: The clerk will report, if that is possible.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, I need your vote.

The Chairman: Oh. Aye.

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

The Chairman: The motion has passed. The nomination will be sent to the floor.

We now have Mr. Jeffrey Bartos of Pennsylvania to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform with the rank of Ambassador.

Is there a motion?

Senator Ricketts: So moved.

The Chairman: Second?

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Senator Barrasso: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded we send Mr. Bartos to the floor with the do pass recommendation.

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?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

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Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Ms. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

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: Yes.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye. Clerk will report.

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

The Chairman: The motion has passed. Mr. Bartos will be sent to the floor with the do pass recommendation.

Now we have Lynda Blanchard of Alabama to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture with the rank of Ambassador.

Is there a motion?

Senator Ricketts: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved. Second?

Senator Barrasso: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and 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.

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The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

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 Coons: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

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?

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

The Chairman: The motion has passed Ms. Blanchard to be referred to the floor with the do pass.

We now have Kimberly Guilfoyle of Florida to be Ambassador to Greece.

Is there a motion?

Senator Hagerty: So moved.

The Chairman: Is there a second?

Senator Ricketts: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded.

Is there a debate?

Yes, Senator Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I intend to support Ms. Guilfoyle's nomination. I think she has worked hard to develop an understanding of the U.S.-Greek relationship. That is important that we have an ambassador in Athens as soon as possible.

We have a very large Hellenic community in New Hampshire who are watching very carefully to make sure that we can have somebody on the ground there who can help Americans in Greece.

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And while I remain concerned about some of the incidents in Ms. Guilfoyle's past, I hope she will represent all Americans and earn their trust as Ambassador to Greece so I intend to support her.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

Is there further debate?

[No response.]

The Chairman: There being no further 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?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

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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 Coons: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

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: [Off mic.]

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

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The Chairman: Aye.

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

The Chairman: Motion has passed. Ms. Guilfoyle will be referred to the floor with the do pass recommendation.

We now have Ms. Jennifer Locetta of Florida to be the alternative Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador, et cetera.

Is there a motion?

Senator Ricketts: So moved.

The Chairman: Is there a second?

Voice: [Off mic.]

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded that we send the nomination to the floor with the do pass recommendation.

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.

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?

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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?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

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 Coons: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

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

The Chairman: The motion is passed. Ms. Locetta will be referred to the floor with the do pass recommendation.

And with that, it concludes the business agenda of our meeting today and we will now move when and if we get a representative from the State Department to have a hearing on the State Department reorganization. I am told that he is on the way so visit amongst yourselves.

Senator Kaine: Mr. Chair?

The Chairman: Senator Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Can I ask that those of us who are here be counted here at the gavel? There is another hearing going on just down the hall that I will duck into as long as our witness has not shown up.

The Chairman: We have already had the gavel. You are considered present.

Senator Kaine: Okay. Thank you.

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The Chairman: Thank you. Thank you for staying. Thank you for coming for the business meeting.

[Whereupon, at 10:18 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.]