

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:24 p.m., in Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Bob Menendez, chairman of the committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Menendez [presiding], Cardin, Shaheen, Coons, Murphy, Kaine, Markey, Merkley, Booker, Schatz, Van Hollen, Risch, Romney, Cruz, and Rounds.

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

The Chairman: This business meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will come to order.

As I noted this morning, as a result of yet another blanket holdover request, we will be voting this afternoon on eight nominees. I said several weeks ago, but we will take a moment to reiterate, that this committee needs to return to a place where we are moving nominees, particularly career nominees, in regular order and without holdovers. These are individuals who sacrifice to serve their country and then are held in limbo for no reason other than to cause an undue delay. Unhappiness

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over policies that have nothing to do with the positions for which they have been nominated, in my view, is not a justifiable reason for holding over blanketly nominees.

I hope we can collectively reflect on this and determine a better and more productive way to express our disappointment with Administration policies. Blanket holdovers have never been used in this committee, much less for this self-defeating purpose. The committee has a long history of working together in a bipartisan fashion and under the principle of comity, and we should strive to keep it that way. I appreciate the ranking member, who has worked with me, in moving these nominations, including with regard to the scheduling of this backup business meeting.

With that, I recognize the ranking member for his remarks.

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

Senator Risch: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief. I am going to speak only about the nomination of Mr. Lu. I am going to vote "no" on Mr. Lu. And to summarize my objections, well, first of all, his original answers to the questions for the record were totally unacceptable. We sent them back, they patched up the whole sum, but they still were not sufficient for me. More importantly, we really need reform at the U.N., and although Mr. Lu says some things, I just do not believe he has the enthusiasm that he should have for that particular question.

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I am particularly concerned about the caps for our dues at the U.N., which then Senator Biden, in partnership with Senator Helms, negotiated and put in place as U.S. law being a 25-percent cap on U.S. contributions to the U.N. The U.N. continues to attempt to assess us more, and that is in violation of U.S. law. Again, I find his enthusiasm less than overwhelming to support the U.S. law of a 25-percent cap. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator Risch. Without objection, we will now consider en bloc seven nominations. They are Donald Lu -- not the Lu that the ranking member was speaking about -- to Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs; Marcela Escobari to be Assistant Administrator of USAID for Latin America and the Caribbean; Rufus Gifford, to be the Chief of Protocol; Jessica Lewis to be Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs; Lee Satterfield to be Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Cultural Affairs; Isobel Coleman to be Deputy Administrator of USAID for policy and programming; and Paloma Adams-Allen to be Deputy Administrator of USAID for Management and Resources.

Is there any member who wishes to speak on these nominations?

Senator Risch: Mr. Chairman, did you say we would have a roll call on Mr. Lu?

The Chairman: Yeah, the other Lu. There are two Lus.

Senator Risch: Right.

The Chairman: Yes, of course, we will have a roll call --

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Senator Risch: Got it.

The Chairman: -- on the Lu that the ranking member has raised the issue with.

So en bloc, for those seven, if there is no one seeking recognition, is there a motion to approve these nominations en bloc?

Voice: So move.

The Chairman: So moved. Is there a second?

Senator Shaheen: Second.

The Chairman: Seconded. All those in favor will say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

The Chairman: All those who are opposed, say no.

[No response.]

The Chairman: A majority of members present having voted in the affirmative, the ayes have it, and the nominations are reported to the Senate favorably.

Senator Risch: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Yes, sir?

Senator Risch: Senator Rubio would be like to be recorded as a "no" on Escobari and Coleman, Senator Johnson "no" on Coleman, thank you.

The Chairman: They shall so be recorded. The clerk will so record them.

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Now we will have a recorded vote on Christopher Lu to be Representative of the United States to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, and the Alternative Representative of the United States to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Cardin?

Senator Cardin: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Coons: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Murphy: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Markey?

Senator Markey: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: Aye.

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The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Booker: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Schatz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Van Hollen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Risch?

Senator Risch: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Rubio?

Senator Risch: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Johnson?

Senator Risch: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Romney?

Senator Romney: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Portman?

Senator Risch: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Risch: No by proxy.

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The Clerk: Mr. Young?

Senator Risch: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Risch: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Rounds?

Senator Rounds: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Risch: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the ayes are 12; the noes are 10.

The Chairman: And the nomination is favorably reported to the full Senate.

That completes the committee's business, and with the thanks of the chair, this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:30 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]