

BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, April 3, 2025

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:38 a.m., in SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, chairman of the committee, presiding.

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

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

The Chairman: We are going to adjourn the hearing and go to a business meeting briefly. Please bear with us. We have one holdover from the last business meeting we had, and that is Mr. Reed Rubinstein.

So I will call the business to order.

Is there a motion to report Mr. Rubinstein to the floor with a recommendation?

Senator Hagerty: Moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved. Is there a second?

Voices: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded. Is there debate? Yes, Senator Shaheen.

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

Senator Shaheen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say a few words about the nominee to be -- who has been chosen to be the legal advisor for the State Department, Mr. Rubinstein. Now, I believe that each nominee should have a chance to make his or her case in a hearing before this committee, and Mr. Rubinstein was given

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that chance. But at a time when this administration is showing disregard for the law and the Constitution, I found it deeply troubling that at his hearing, Mr. Rubinstein would not commit to upholding the law. This should not be a difficult question, especially for an attorney with Mr. Rubinstein's history. It should not be a position that attracts a lot of attention, but the person filling this role has enormous influence over the direction of our Nation's foreign policy. The role advises the Secretary of State and the entire State Department on everything from the law of war, to issuing visas, to arms sales, to keeping Congress informed.

I support nominees who are experienced and deserving of Senate confirmation, regardless of who nominates them, but I do not believe that Mr. Rubinstein should be confirmed, particularly at this moment in time, for such a consequential position when he could not even say that he would uphold the rule of law. So I intend to oppose his nomination, and I hope my colleagues carefully consider, as I know they always do, their vote.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator Shaheen. We appreciate that. Is there further debate on the nomination?

[No response.]

The Chairman: There being none, 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.

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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?

The Chairman: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

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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. The clerk will report.

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

The Chairman: The motion has carried. We will adjourn the business meeting and return to our nominations hearing.

[Whereupon, at 10:41 a.m., the committee business meeting was adjourned.]