

BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, February 28, 2011

U.S. SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 5:56 p.m. in Room S-116,
2 The Capitol, Hon. John Kerry, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 **PRESENT:** Senators Kerry [presiding], Boxer, Menendez, Cardin,
4 Casey, Shaheen, Coons, Durbin, Udall, Lugar, Corker, Risch, Rubio,
5 Isakson, and Barrasso.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN KERRY, U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Welcome back. We'll come to order. Welcome
7 back, everybody. I hope everybody had a terrific and fruitful break, and now
8 we're back for another slug here. I might just say parenthetically, tomorrow
9 we do have a hearing on North Korea. I don't think I can remember any
10 time when events have been moving as fast as they've been moving with the
11 potential consequences. I thought it would be great -- we are going to have a
12 dinner tomorrow night and we'll have a chance to chat a little bit about that. I

1 thought it would be good just to get together and talk amongst ourselves as a
2 committee without the glare of the spotlight and see what everybody's thinking
3 about how we would react, where we go with these events that are taking
4 place, because they are monumental and completely unresolved, with grave
5 consequences in a lot of ways for what happens. So I'll get back to everybody
6 and hopefully we can do that in short order.

7 I don't know if everybody remembers, we had to move the dinner that
8 was at our house, of the Foreign Relations Committee, and I apologize for
9 that, because of the Pakistan trip a couple weeks ago. I think it's rescheduled
10 for tomorrow night, so I hope people can make that.

11 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** I think it's Wednesday.

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Wednesday. Wednesday, thank you. Wednesday.
13 Thank you very much. I'm corrected.

14 And it won't be long and it will be just casual, really casual, and I hope
15 everybody can come and we can share a moment.

16 So we were originally going to meet tomorrow afternoon, but the Rules
17 Committee let us know that they have to have our approved budget by
18 tomorrow morning because they're meeting at 10:00 o'clock to do the budget.
19 So the resolution will authorize the expenditures during the 112th Congress.

1 These levels were approved as part of a package that addressed all Senate
2 committees. They reflect the agreement between the majority and the
3 minority leader.

4 There were several other items that happened to be on the business
5 meeting for tomorrow. They're noncontroversial and I thought, because
6 we're all gathered here, it would be good if we could proceed to a vote on
7 those quickly.

8 The first two are organizational items. We have the proposed
9 committee rules for the 112th Congress, substantively identical to the SFRC
10 rules from the last Congress, and I don't recommend any changes. I think
11 they served us well.

12 We also have the proposed subcommittee membership and
13 jurisdiction for the 112th Congress. I want to thank each of you for the
14 willingness to serve on these important subcommittees. I think, unlike a lot of
15 the other committees, this committee really lends itself well to subcommittee
16 initiative, and I encourage it, by the chairs, by the ranking members, and on a
17 bipartisan basis. I think it's terrific that the subcommittees are active, and
18 you'll find me very accommodating in terms of the willingness to authorize
19 those hearings and trips and other kinds of things.

1 So, Senator Lugar, do you want to make any comments with respect to
2 any of this?

3 **SENATOR LUGAR.** No. I think I would agree with the thoughtful
4 comments you've made. I suspect I would propose to vote on the entire
5 agenda, and I would move the entire agenda, including the budget, the three
6 organizational moves, and the nominations.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you.

8 **SENATOR BOXER.** Second.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. Seconded. It is seconded. Is there any
10 debate on that, any comments?

11 [No response.]

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, I don't think there's any call for a roll call
13 vote. All those in favor say aye.

14 [A chorus of ayes.]

15 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed, nay.

16 [No response.]

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it and the agenda is approved.

18 Let me quickly -- we almost have a full committee, but I want to
19 welcome -- we lost a couple of members, which is always sad and I hate to see

1 that happen. But I'm delighted to welcome Marco Rubio. Thanks for
2 coming aboard. We're really happy to have you here.

3 Chris Coons is now official and a member of the committee. Our
4 majority assistant leader, Dick Durbin, I am really happy to have him on
5 board in this team, as well as Tom Udall, who wanted to be on this committee
6 last time and we weren't able to make that happen. The three of you,
7 together with Marco Rubio and his interests, I think provide real strength to
8 the committee, and I'm delighted to welcome all of you to our efforts.
9 Welcome aboard. We'll look forward to jousting with you as we go forward.

10 **SENATOR BOXER.** Senator Inhofe, isn't he new on the committee,
11 too?

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** No, he was on it last time.

13 **SENATOR BOXER.** He was?

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Inhofe did join us previously.

15 **MS. MURPHY:** He's not here right now.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** He's not here.

17 **MS. MURPHY:** Senator Lee's not here.

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Ah, and Senator Lee is not here. But I welcomed
2 Senator Lee. He came to a hearing and I did welcome him previously, and I
3 think we're in force.

4 Any comments, thoughts? Anybody, trips? Didn't you go somewhere,
5 Johnny?

6 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** How was your trip to Pakistan?

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** You went to Pakistan, didn't you? My trip to
8 Pakistan, I'll just tell you quickly -- we're going to go -- the committee meeting
9 is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 6:01 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.]