

BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, February 7, 2019

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

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:14 p.m., in Room S-116, U.S.
2 Capitol, Hon. James Risch, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 Present: Senators Risch [presiding], Rubio, Johnson, Gardner, Romney,
4 Graham, Isakson, Barrasso, Portman, Cruz, Menendez, Cardin, Udall, Murphy,
5 Markey, and Merkley.

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

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The committee will come to order, and we appreciate
7 everyone coming. We have got an agenda to roll through today and should be
8 able to get through it pretty quickly.

9 Before we start on that, I want to recognize Senator Isakson, who is going
10 to give kudos to Ryan Evans, who is leaving us.

11 **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Mr. Chairman, you know, a husband learns in
12 marriage to stay married, respect your wife, be nice to them -- be nice to them,
13 honoring them when they need to be honored, and say good things about them
14 and be proud. If you do that, you are doing a pretty good thing. You are really

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
February 7, 2019

1 lucky if you have had somebody work for you on your staff who is not your
2 wife, but who has worked for you and made you what you are. And I have got a
3 lady on our committee, Ryan Evans, who for the last 11-and-a-half years has been
4 my foreign relations advisor, and, quite frankly, she is a lot smarter than I am
5 and very patient.

6 She has been to Africa with me. She has traveled me. She has been
7 offered the job of regional trade representative to the United States for Great
8 Britain. And she is taking it with my blessing because they will be getting a great
9 person who is very knowledgeable in what they do. And I will be glad we will
10 have somebody of that intellect to deal with the country.

11 But she is a very special lady. I risk saying something that I would not
12 apply to anybody else, but I think she is unique among all the people I have ever
13 worked with. She has worked hard, she cares, and she has done things for a lot
14 of you that I see and a lot of you that I do not see but have written me notes
15 about what Ryan did. So I just wanted to say that she is officially gone tomorrow
16 as far as our office is concerned. And the next time you see her, she will be in
17 Great Britain for the queen and Great Britain.

18 So I have enjoyed having her. She has done everything for me she could
19 possibly do, and I think we were all lucky to have great staff. You all do and I
20 do, too. Ryan, we are going to miss you, but we love you very much.

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Ryan, thank you. [Applause.]

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Ryan, thank you for your service. Today we are going to
3 -- I would appreciate it if you would stick with us. We need a dozen people to
4 do this. These are things we are going to do. We are going to establish our
5 subcommittees, and approve the committee rules, and authorize committee
6 expenditures for this Congress.

7 And the first thing we will do is consider the proposed committee rules
8 for the 116th Congress. These rules have served this committee well in the past,
9 and I believe they will continue to do so this Congress. Next we will consider the
10 proposed subcommittee membership jurisdiction for the 116th Congress. I know
11 our subcommittees will continue to play a vital role in the work that this
12 committee does. I also want to thank each of you for your willingness to serve
13 on these important subcommittees, and I look forward to working with the
14 respective chairmen and ranking members of each subcommittee.

15 Most of you know that I intend that the subcommittees will play a less
16 passive role as we go forward. And because of the breadth of the things that we
17 deal with in this committee, it is all together appropriate that the subcommittees
18 also are weighed in on some of these things to take the weight off of the whole
19 committee. So with that, I want to recognize the distinguished ranking member
20 for his comments.

1 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** And thank you for working with us on this.

3 **STATEMENT OF HON. BOB MENENDEZ,**
4 **U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

5 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Well, Mr. Chairman, first of all, I will tell you
6 publicly -- I told you privately -- congratulations on your elevation to chairman.
7 I look forward to working with you to ensure the committee is addressing some
8 of the most pressing challenges our country faces in the world today.

9 I also want to welcome all the members and particularly the new
10 members: Senator Graham, Senator Cruz, and Senator Romney. You are joining
11 the committee at a critical time, and I look forward to collaborating with you
12 when we can agree, which I hope will be more often than not, and have spirited
13 debates when we do not.

14 Mr. Chairman, I do not recall a time when there has been more turmoil on
15 issues within our jurisdiction. There are so many challenges and corresponding
16 opportunities facing the United States today, from Russia to the Middle East, to
17 China, to North Korea, and beyond. I expect, and we have a responsibility as the
18 Foreign Relations Committee, to tackle these challenges and to help guide U.S.
19 foreign policy in these tumultuous times. I know we are both interested in
20 finding common ground to meet these challenges together.

1 I support all of the items on the agenda, including the committee rules,
2 which are time-tested and have served us well over the years. And finally, I will
3 say again, as I have said to members individually, this committee is somewhat
4 unique in the Senate in light of our longstanding tradition of comity, which
5 provides a roadmap for how the majority and the minority work together on
6 behalf of the American people. It is this tradition of comity more than any
7 written rule which has nurtured our ability to operate in a bipartisan and
8 productive manner.

9 I look forward to continuing this tradition. I have upheld it both as a
10 former chairman and more recently as the ranking member, and I look forward
11 to working with you in that spirit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you very much, Senator, and I want to tell you
13 that I have every intention of working together. Your observations about the
14 kinds of things we are going to be dealing with are very, very appropriate. This
15 committee is up to it. This is an outstanding membership that we have in this
16 committee.

17 Thank you for welcoming the new members publicly. As you know, we
18 have done so privately, and so publicly it is good to welcome them. But we
19 intend to discharge the role that the founding fathers gave us as we deal with

1 foreign relation matters, both in the construction and execution of foreign policy.

2 So thank you for those remarks.

3 So with that, I would like to consider the committee rules. Are there any
4 additional comments before we vote on the rules?

5 [No response.]

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, I will entertain a motion to adopt the rules.

7 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So moved.

8 **SENATOR RUBIO.** Second.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The motion has been made and second.

10 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

11 [A chorus of ayes.]

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed, nay?

13 [No response.]

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and the rules have been adopted.

15 Next, we will adopt the subcommittee membership jurisdictions, and are
16 there any additional comments on this particular issue?

17 [No response.]

18 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, I would entertain a motion to consider the
19 subcommittee membership and jurisdiction.

20 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So moved.

1 **SENATOR RUBIO.** Second.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** There is a motion and a second.

3 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

4 [A chorus of ayes.]

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed, nay?

6 [No response.]

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and the membership and jurisdiction
8 have been approved.

9 Finally, we will consider a resolution authorizing expenditures by this
10 committee during the 116th Congress. Are there any additional comments on
11 expenditures?

12 [No response.]

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, I will entertain a motion.

14 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So moved.

15 **SENATOR RUBIO.** Second.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The motion has been made and second that we adopt the
17 authorizing expenditures by this committee for the 116th Congress.

18 All in favor, signify by saying aye.

19 [A chorus of ayes.]

20 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed, nay?

1 [No response.]

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and that has been adopted.

3 And with that, that completes the committee's business. Anything else for
4 the good of the order?

5 [No response.]

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If not, the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:22 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]