

# BUSINESS MEETING

*Wednesday, April 3, 2019*

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

1           The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:20 p.m., in Room S-116, The  
2 Capitol, Hon. James Risch, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3           **PRESENT.** Senators Risch [presiding], Rubio, Johnson, Gardner, Romney,  
4 Isakson, Barrasso, Portman, Young, Cruz, Menendez, Cardin, Coons, Murphy,  
5 Kaine, Markey, Merkley, and Booker.

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

6           **THE CHAIRMAN.** The committee will come to order. We waited, Senator  
7 Menendez, but just barely.

8           In our business meeting today, what we are going to have is 24 nominees  
9 and seven resolutions. Thanks to the staff for working hard to iron out the vast  
10 majority of the differences. I am going to try to run through this very quickly,  
11 but anybody who has something for the good of the order, do not hesitate to  
12 throw a wrench in the works.

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1           So I want to briefly talk about the seven resolutions. The first resolution is  
2 Res. 23, supporting the goals and ideals of Countering International Parental  
3 Child Abduction Month. I would like to thank Senator Tillis for his work on this  
4 resolution along with other co-sponsors on this committee.

5           The second resolution is Res. 27, a resolution calling for prompt  
6 multinational freedom of navigation operation in the Black Sea and urging the  
7 cancellation of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. I would like to acknowledge Senator  
8 Johnson for introducing this important legislation along with numerous co-  
9 sponsors.

10           Next is Senate Res. 35, a resolution supporting democratic principles and  
11 standards in Bolivia and throughout Latin America. I want to thank Senator  
12 Menendez and Senator Cruz for introducing this.

13           Senate Res. 67 is next, a resolution emphasizing the importance and  
14 vitality of U.S. alliances with Japan and the Republic of Korea. I would like to  
15 recognize Senators Menendez, Gardner, and Markey for their support of this  
16 measure.

1           Next is Res. 95, the 198th anniversary of the independence of Greece.

2   Thank you to Senators Menendez, Barrasso, and other members of our  
3   committee for supporting this annual resolution. We will probably have a bigger  
4   one in a couple years I would think, considering this year.

5           Res. 96 is next, a resolution commending Canada for upholding the rule of  
6   law and expressing concern over actions by the Chinese in response to a United  
7   States request to Canada for the extradition of a Huawei Technologies executive.  
8   I am proud to sponsor this resolution and appreciate the support of Senator  
9   Menendez and many other members of this committee. This resolution draws a  
10  stark contrast between the Chinese government's lawless behavior and the lack  
11  of reciprocity on the one and Canada's steadfast defense of the rule of law on the  
12  other. Since the arrest of Huawei's chief financial officer, Canada has granted  
13  access to both consular officials and an attorney. Chinese authorities are  
14  meanwhile subjecting Canadian citizens -- Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor --  
15  to arbitrary and abusive treatment. Our message of support to Canada is  
16  unwavering. The Chinese government should release those two people  
17  immediately and ensure due process.

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1           Finally, we will consider Senator Res. 123, a resolution supporting the  
2 North Atlantic Treaty Organization and recognizing its 70 years of  
3 accomplishments. I would like to thank Senator Menendez and other co-  
4 sponsors for joining me to sponsor this measure, which is a robust demonstration  
5 of the Senate support for it. Tomorrow marks the 70th anniversary of NATO's  
6 founding. This resolution recognizes the alliance's singular contributions to  
7 maintaining the safety, security, and democratic systems of its members. It calls  
8 on NATO member-states to fully meet their pledges of 2 percent of their GDP on  
9 defense and to more fully share the security burden, but also emphasizes our  
10 belief that NATO will continue to be a cornerstone of U.S. security. I urge all of  
11 my colleagues to support this important and timely resolution.

12           And I will now recognize Senator Menendez for his comments.

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

13           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me first say that I  
14 must admit that I am struck by the profound irony of the majority leader  
15 exercising the nuclear option on the Senate floor today, pointing in part to this  
16 committee's nominees as the reason why, when we are moving 24 nominees just

1 at this business meeting alone. And I want to take a look at the overall picture of  
2 this Congress because I have been crunching numbers.

3 After today's markup, there will be approximately 40 additional nominees  
4 pending before the committee. Of that number, only seven or eight are ready for  
5 hearings. The rest have incomplete files, outstanding vetting, or other issues.

6 And our staffs are actively working together to get these hearings scheduled, so  
7 in reality there is no problem in this committee. So while the complaints we are  
8 hearing about Democratic delays are much ado about nothing, there are serious  
9 problems with the Administration's approach to nominations and the advise and  
10 consent process.

11 I don't plan on repeating my entire floor speech from last week, but I want  
12 to emphasize two key points. First, we do not have some of the important  
13 nominees because the President has delayed nominating qualified candidates. I  
14 am glad we are going to vote on General Abizaid today, but it took 23 months  
15 before the Trump Administration bothered to nominate him. It took even longer  
16 -- over 2 years -- before the Trump Administration nominated a candidate to be  
17 U.S. ambassador to Turkey. We are now 26 months into the Trump

1 Administration, and we still lack ambassadorial nominees to critical countries  
2 like Egypt, Pakistan, and our close ally, Jordan.

3 And second, political nominees we do receive often are not vetted. There  
4 have been plenty of political nominees that have gone through this process who  
5 have gone on to serve in ambassadorial roles. The issue of being a political  
6 nominee in and of itself is not a problem, but there are many that are not vetted.  
7 And when the President nominates and re-nominates individuals with  
8 restraining orders for threats of violence, who engage in incidents that should,  
9 frankly, mean they should never have been nominated, make material omissions  
10 on their statements, sometimes on a repeated basis even when it is brought to  
11 their attention in their nomination materials, when they have made horrendous  
12 comments about members of the Senate, including members of this committee  
13 who will have to cast a vote on them, the Foreign Relations Committee must do  
14 our due diligence on behalf of the American people.

15 With that said, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that we are having this  
16 business meeting today and expect that we will be reporting the entire agenda. I  
17 note that while we are advancing seven important resolutions and a large

1 number of nominations today, there are no bills on the business meeting agenda,  
2 and I hope that working with the chairman -- we had a good discussion the other  
3 day -- we can change this dynamic moving forward.

4 The committee will only be relevant if we make it so, and, in part, that  
5 means legislating. We have a lot of bipartisan bills out there -- DASKA, Caesar,  
6 and many others -- on critical foreign policy and national security issues. We  
7 need to debate and vote on them. It is important for the committee and for the  
8 country.

9 With regard to the resolutions, I am pleased to see all of them on today's  
10 agenda. I will support of all them and congratulate all the members who have  
11 been engaged. I want to speak briefly about a couple.

12 I am pleased to join the chairman on the NATO resolution in light of the  
13 Alliance's 70th anniversary and also to join Senator Johnson on S. Res. 27.  
14 Russian aggression is in total disregard for international law. It shows why it is  
15 incredibly important that we maintain and strengthen NATO and why our  
16 European partners should not be dependent on Putin and Russia. I was proud to  
17 introduce, along with Senator Barrasso, S. Res. 95, which recognizes the 198th

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1 anniversary of the independence of Greece. Our Nation's representative  
2 democracy was heavily influenced and shaped by ancient Greece, and Greek-  
3 Americans are indispensable to the rich fabric of this Nation.

4 My resolution, S. Res. 35, sends a bipartisan message of support for  
5 Democratic principles and standards in Bolivia and throughout Latin America. I  
6 want to thank Senator Cruz and Durbin for their co-sponsorship. I am also  
7 pleased to sponsor S. Res. 67, which reaffirms strong congressional support for  
8 the U.S. alliances with South Korea and Japan and the critical importance of  
9 trilateral cooperation. I am also pleased to co-sponsor S. Res. 96 with Chairman  
10 Risch to show our support for Canada and appreciation for their upholding  
11 extradition treaty obligations in the recent Huawei case.

12 And last but certainly not least, I want to thank Senator Tillis and  
13 Feinstein for introducing S. Res. 23, which makes clear that the United States can  
14 and must do better to protect the welfare of children hurt by the trauma of  
15 international parental abductions. I would note that S. Res. 23 highlights the  
16 often devastating short- and long-term impacts to children resulting from  
17 separation from a parent in child abduction cases. And I would urge all of my

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1 colleagues to recognize that thousands of children have suffered the same way,  
2 or maybe even worse, when we have child separation policies on the border of  
3 the United States.

4 I look forward to supporting these resolutions, Mr. Chairman, and I thank  
5 you for putting this meeting together.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Menendez, thanks so much for those remarks,  
7 and I want to respond briefly. And, again, as you know, I think you and I have  
8 both discussed that we want to keep this as nonpartisan as we possibly can. I  
9 want to respond to just a couple of things that you said. Again, I do not want to  
10 escalate this to a point where we start arguing on these.

11 But look, the remarks you made about working towards getting these  
12 nominations done, I concur that we want to continue to work at it, but all is not  
13 well. President Clinton in his first 2 years sent 274 noms to this committee; 96.3  
14 percent were confirmed. Senator Obama in the first 2 years submitted 247 noms  
15 to this committee; 89 percent were confirmed. President Trump only sent 225,  
16 but we have only got 65 percent of them done, so all is not well here. Now, that  
17 does not mean we cannot continue to work at it, and you and I had a really good

1 discussion the other day, and I commit to you again that I want to continue to  
2 work at this as best we can.

3 We have got four of the six undersecretary positions vacant. We have got  
4 8 of the 22 assistant secretary positions vacant. And it is really important that we  
5 get the State Department up and running. The criticism of President Trump not  
6 having filled all the positions, it is not much of a -- if we were sitting here with an  
7 empty table and no positions to work on, I think it would be a legitimate  
8 criticism. But, gosh, when we have got 40 of them backed up already, I do not  
9 think it is much criticism.

10 But, again, I want to keep this on a -- I want to continue to keep operating  
11 on as bipartisan basis as we can because we are all -- we are all interested in the  
12 same thing when it comes to foreign relations.

13 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Well, Mr. Chairman, if I may.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** You may.

15 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** And I know we are trying to keep it as bipartisan as  
16 we can. Of the 40 left, only seven are ready for a hearing, and those can be called  
17 by the committee or the subcommittees. The others are not ready, plain and

1 simple. They are not. Their files are not ready. I am not responsible for  
2 answering for nominees who do not fill out their files or do not fill it out  
3 correctly.

4 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I agree.

5 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So do not hold us responsible for that, number one.  
6 Number two, General Abizaid, I had to listen to a remark by the majority leader  
7 on the floor. He just got nominated very recently. Two years without a  
8 nomination. He was the first nominee that went through this session of  
9 Congress. He had a hearing and he is getting voted out today. And so the reality  
10 is you nominate somebody very late in the process and then you say, oh, look, it  
11 is being held up when, in fact, they are moving quickly.

12 And as it relates to your percentages, I will just say that in the last  
13 Congress, the first 2 years of this Administration, overwhelmingly, if I recall the  
14 numbers, there were, you know, over 140, 150, maybe 160 persons that were  
15 nominated and put out the committee. And then of the 24 nominees that did not  
16 make it, they were cleared by us on the Senate floor. They did not make it

1 because of time or other obligations. I am not responsible. I do not control the  
2 Senate floor.

3           So at the end of the day, we have worked extremely hard to do this, but  
4 when there are comments made by individuals nominated to be an ambassador  
5 of the United States about Senator Cruz and his family, about Senator Romney  
6 and others that show that the lack of temperament of someone to be an  
7 ambassador of the United States, it is just not particularly helpful. It is not  
8 particularly helpful to have restraining orders. It is not particularly helpful when  
9 somebody shoots bullets at a target and says this is the way I am going to take  
10 care of the problem.

11           These are the people who are going to be ambassadors of the United  
12 States, so I take a backseat to no one in terms of trying to move the process. But  
13 some of these nominees, even the Secretary of State, who I spoke to when he first  
14 came on board, agreed with me that he had hoped they would not be re-  
15 nominated. Well, here we are. They are. So that is what we are dealing with.

16           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. Thank you, Senator. Again, I commit to you  
17 to continue to work to move these forward.

1           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** As do we.

2           **THE CHAIRMAN.** I hope we can continue. I am going to take up the  
3 resolutions first, and then we will move to the noms. Unless there is objection,  
4 we will consider en bloc all of the resolutions on the agenda -- S. Res. 23, 27, 35,  
5 67, 95, 96, 123 -- as amended by the noticed amendments to these resolutions.  
6 Would any members like to give comments on any of these?

7           **SENATOR COONS.** Mr. Chairman?

8           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes?

9           **SENATOR COONS.** If you would just -- my staff will communicate. I would  
10 like to be added as a co-sponsor on several.

11           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there objection? Well, if there is no objection, we will  
12 add you, Senator. Is there a motion to approve en bloc the resolutions --

13           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So moved.

14           **VOICE.** Second.

15           **THE CHAIRMAN.** -- as amended by the noticed amendments?

16           There has been a motion, seconded.

17           All those in favor, signify by saying aye?

1 [A chorus of ayes.]

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

3 [No response.]

4 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it, and the resolutions are agreed to.

5 We will now move to the nominations. We have been back and forth this  
6 the last couple of days. I received a letter to hold over the nomination of Mr.  
7 David Schenker to be assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. We will  
8 consider this nomination at the next business meeting. Without objection, unless  
9 anyone has an objection, we will now consider all of the other noms as are listed  
10 and posted -- I am not going to read them unless someone insists -- on the  
11 agenda en banc.

12 Is there a motion to favorably report all the noms on the agenda --

13 **SENATOR MURPHY.** Mr. Chairman?

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** -- except Mr. Schenker?

15 **SENATOR MURPHY.** Mr. Chairman?

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes?

17 **SENATOR MURPHY.** Can I speak to one of the nominees?

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** You may, sure.

2           **SENATOR MURPHY.** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just want to  
3 speak to Matthew Tueller for a moment, who is on this list here, ambassador to  
4 Iraq. He has been our ambassador to Yemen over the past several years, and I do  
5 think we got a window into the ineffectiveness of our policy in Yemen when he  
6 testified before our committee that it was his belief that Saudi Arabia bore zero  
7 percent responsibility for the civilian deaths that have occurred on the ground  
8 inside Yemen, a conclusion that no other expert on the Yemen civil war would  
9 make.

10           He did clarify that response in written questions for the record, but our  
11 policy in Yemen has been a disaster. Simple things have not been able to get  
12 done. If it were not for Senator Young's herculean efforts, cranes that the U.S.  
13 had paid for to move humanitarian assistance in and out of Hodeida would still  
14 be sitting in a warehouse. And so I do have reservations about promoting Mr.  
15 Tueller to one of the most important posts in the State Department. I appreciate  
16 his clarification on his answers, and so I will support him today.

17           And while I have the floor, if I may just note --

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Excuse me. Did you say you were going to support?

2           **SENATOR MURPHY.** I will support him today, but I raise those issues as a  
3 note to the committee to watch his impartiality in his new post as well. But, Mr.  
4 Chairman, I just want to note that we are right on the 6-month mark of the  
5 murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a United States resident. We have received news  
6 since then of other similar brutal treatment of other U.S. residents in Saudi  
7 custody. Amongst the legislation that this committee has to consider in the  
8 coming weeks and months is bipartisan legislation to make it clear that the status  
9 of our relationship with Saudi Arabia as it stands today is unacceptable. There is  
10 no way that we cannot find a bipartisan path to get that legislation before this  
11 committee, and I hope that remains at the top of your list and the ranking  
12 member's list.

13           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Murphy, you and I have discussed this, and you  
14 know that I concur with your views in that regard. I think it is probably not a  
15 very well-kept secret that there are active negotiations going on amongst all  
16 interested parties, both the first and second branch of government, to accomplish  
17 exactly what you have just indicated. To coin a phrase, "it is complicated," but

1 we are going to continue at it, and I am cautiously optimistic that we will get  
2 there, and we appreciate your support. Senator Merkley was next.

3 **VOICE.** No, go right ahead.

4 **SENATOR MERKLEY.** Mr. Chairman, I would ask that we hold a separate  
5 vote on Mr. Joseph Cella and on Matthew Tueller.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So you want those two as individual votes. Is that right?

7 **SENATOR MERKLEY.** Yes, please.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. Who were the two?

9 **SENATOR MERKLEY.** Joseph Cella, Fiji Islands, and Matthew Tueller for  
10 Iraq.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So has there been a motion yet to --

12 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** I will make a motion that all the other nominees,  
13 except for those --

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Those two.

15 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** -- would be voted on en bloc.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a second?

17 **VOICE.** Second.

1           **SENATOR Kaine.** Does no one have trouble with this Ron Johnson that is  
2 on this list?

3           [Laughter.]

4           **SENATOR Johnson.** None whatsoever. It sounds serious.

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** No, just with the real --

6           [Laughter.]

7           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Are there -- are there further comments on any of the  
8 nominees?

9           **SENATOR Gardner.** Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

10          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes?

11          **SENATOR Gardner.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to comment on our  
12 colleague, Ron Johnson, but General Stilwell, who is nominated, of course, to fill  
13 the role as assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, I will be  
14 supporting his nomination going forward. But there are a couple of very  
15 important reports that the State Department owes to this Congress that they are  
16 past due on, including our strategy as it relates to North Korea.

1           We had a committee hearing, a very good committee hearing, just last  
2 week on this matter. It is very important that they get and meet the obligations  
3 of the law as passed by this committee, signed into law, and get these reports  
4 over to us. So I will be supporting his nomination, but the first order of business  
5 is comply with these reports.

6           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator, I will be certain that your remarks are  
7 forwarded to the appropriate parties who will take note.

8           **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Mr. Chairman?

9           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Isakson?

10          **SENATOR ISAKSON.** One question for the gentleman from Oregon. Do you  
11 have a reason that you can say for your objection to Matthew Tueller?

12          **SENATOR MERKLEY.** Are you guys addressing me?

13          **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Yes.

14          **VOICE.** Yes.

15          **SENATOR MERKLEY.** Yes. It was my questioning and Senator Murphy's  
16 questioning which he responded that Saudi Arabia bore no responsibility. And  
17 the fact is that they have deliberately targeted the infrastructure of Yemen,

1 producing the worst cholera epidemic in the history of the world, and that  
2 cholera epidemic is erupting now again. I was appalled that he could take that  
3 position. It seemed completely at odds with the facts. And my colleagues are  
4 more generous because I do intend to vote no on his nomination.

5 **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Thank you.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** There being no further debate, we will turn first to the  
7 motion to vote en bloc on all except Mr. Cella and Mr. Tueller.

8 All in favor, signify by saying aye.

9 [A chorus of ayes.]

10 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed, nay.

11 [No response.]

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it. We will now proceed to the  
13 confirmation of Mr. Joseph Cella. I guess the motion included that we would  
14 have -- that it be done separately. So the clerk will call the roll on Joseph Cella.

15 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Rubio?

16 **SENATOR RUBIO.** Aye.

17 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Johnson?

- 1           **SENATOR JOHNSON.** Aye.
- 2           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Gardner?
- 3           **SENATOR GARDNER.** Aye.
- 4           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Romney?
- 5           **SENATOR ROMNEY.** Aye.
- 6           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Graham?
- 7           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye by proxy.
- 8           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Isakson?
- 9           **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Aye.
- 10          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Barrasso?
- 11          **SENATOR BARRASSO.** Aye.
- 12          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Portman?
- 13          **SENATOR PORTMAN.** Aye.
- 14          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Paul?
- 15          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye by proxy.
- 16          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Young?
- 17          **SENATOR YOUNG.** Aye.

1           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Cruz?

2           **SENATOR CRUZ.** Aye.

3           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Menendez?

4           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** No.

5           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Cardin?

6           **SENATOR CARDIN.** No.

7           **THE CLERK.** Mrs. Shaheen?

8           [No response.]

9           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Coons?

10          **SENATOR COONS.** No.

11          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Udall?

12          **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Aye by proxy.

13          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Murphy?

14          **SENATOR MURPHY.** Aye.

15          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Kaine?

16          **SENATOR KAINE:** Is this on Cella? No.

17          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Markey?

1           **SENATOR MARKEY.** No.

2           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Merkley?

3           **SENATOR MERKLEY.** No.

4           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Booker?

5           **SENATOR BOOKER.** No.

6           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Chairman?

7           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Report?

8           **VOICE.** You have to vote.

9           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Oh, aye.

10          [Laughter.]

11          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Report.

12          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 14; the nays are 7.

13          **THE CHAIRMAN.** The nomination has been confirmed, and we will send  
14 the nomination to the clerk.

15          We will now call the roll on Matthew Tueller.

16          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Rubio?

17          **SENATOR RUBIO.** Aye.

1           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Johnson?  
2           **SENATOR JOHNSON.** Aye.  
3           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Gardner?  
4           **SENATOR GARDNER.** Aye.  
5           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Romney?  
6           **SENATOR ROMNEY.** Aye.  
7           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Graham?  
8           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye by proxy.  
9           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Isakson?  
10          **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Aye.  
11          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Barrasso?  
12          **SENATOR BARRASSO.** Aye.  
13          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Portman?  
14          **SENATOR PORTMAN.** Aye.  
15          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Paul?  
16          **THE CHAIRMAN.** No by proxy.  
17          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Young?

1           **SENATOR YOUNG.** Aye.

2           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Cruz?

3           **SENATOR CRUZ.** Aye.

4           **THE CLERK.** Senator Menendez?

5           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Aye.

6           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Cardin?

7           **SENATOR CARDIN.** Aye.

8           **THE CLERK.** Mrs. Shaheen?

9           [No response.]

10          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Coons?

11          **SENATOR COONS.** Aye.

12          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Udall?

13          **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Aye by proxy.

14          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Murphy?

15          **SENATOR MURPHY.** Aye.

16          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Kaine?

17          **SENATOR KAINE:** Aye.

1           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Markey?

2           **SENATOR MARKEY.** Aye.

3           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Merkley?

4           **SENATOR MERKLEY.** No.

5           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Booker?

6           **SENATOR BOOKER.** Aye.

7           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Chairman?

8           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye.

9           Report, please.

10          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 19; the nays are 2.

11          **THE CHAIRMAN.** The motion is passed, and the nomination will be sent to  
12 the clerk. Senator Menendez?

13          **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Mr. Chairman, if I may?

14          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes.

15          **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** I understand all the work has been done now. I just  
16 wanted to echo Senator Murphy's remarks as it relates to Saudi Arabia. There is  
17 bipartisan legislation. Senator Young is one of the many members who has been

1 a forceful advocate of this and has joined us in bipartisan efforts, the Saudi  
2 Arabia Accountability in Yemen Act. And I hope that it can be a basis for us  
3 expressing the very views that many on a bipartisan basis have as it relates to  
4 Saudi Arabia and our relationship there.

5 It is an important relationship, but no relationship should be so important  
6 that it can be carte blanche at the end of the day. And I hope we can come  
7 together to express that sooner rather than later.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I concur in your remarks. This concludes the  
9 committee's business. We received a request from Senator Paul to be recorded as  
10 a "no" on Senate Res. 27. Unless there is objection, he will be so recorded.

11 I ask unanimous consent that staff be authorized to make and technical  
12 conforming changes. Without objection, that is so ordered.

13 With that, the committee is adjourned.

**[Whereupon, at 2:43 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]**