
Tuesday, September 26, 2017

BUSINESS MEETING

U.S. SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
115TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:41 a.m. in Room SD-419, Dirksen
2 Senate Office Building, Hon. Bob Corker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 Present: Senators Corker [presiding], Rubio, Johnson, Flake, Young, Isakson,
4 Portman, Cardin, Udall, Murphy, Kaine, Markey, and Booker.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BOB CORKER, U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The business meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee will
6 come to order.

7 We will consider a number of nominations today. I want to thank my colleague
8 for helping the committee work through these nominations in an appropriate fashion
9 and to allow us to take these steps forward.

10 Senator Cardin, do you have any comments you would like to make?

STATEMENT OF HON. BENJAMIN CARDIN, U.S. SENATOR FROM MARYLAND

11 **SENATOR CARDIN.** Mr. Chairman, thank you. Working with our staffs and all
12 the members of our committee, I support all these nominees.

1 I do want to make just a very brief comment about Mr. Huntsman, Governor
2 Huntsman, the Ambassador nominee to Russia.

3 We listen to a lot of nominees before this committee. A lot of them are very well
4 qualified. Certainly Governor Huntsman is one of those individuals that is very well
5 qualified. But few have answered the questions with the clarity that he did and his
6 commitment to carry out the type of strength for our values in our relationship with
7 Russia. So I am enthusiastically supporting this nominee and hope that we can get him
8 to Moscow as soon as possible.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I could not agree more. I thought it was an outstanding
10 testimony, one of the best we have heard, although we have heard numbers of very
11 good ones. And I look forward to him being in Moscow.

12 Any other comments?

13 [No response.]

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** What I would like to ask then is that we entertain a motion to
15 approve all of the nominations en bloc by voice vote. If anyone wants to register a
16 negative, they are able to do so. But I would like a motion to en bloc to move the
17 Honorable Jon Huntsman to be Ambassador to Russia, Mr. Wess Mitchell to be
18 Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, Mr. Justin Siberell to be
19 Ambassador to Bahrain, and Mr. Steven Dowd to be the U.S. Director of the African
20 Development Bank.

1 **SENATOR CARDIN.** So moved.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** It has been moved. Is there a second?

3 **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Second.

4 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All in favor, say aye.

5 [Chorus of ayes.]

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed? Does anyone want to be recorded as a negative?

7 [No response.]

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** With that, that will complete our committee's business.

9 We ask unanimous consent that staff be authorized to make technical and
10 conforming changes. Without objection, so ordered.

11 And with that, without objection, the committee will stand adjourned from the
12 business meeting.

[Whereupon, at 10:44 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]