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# **BUSINESS MEETING**

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*Thursday, October 1, 2015*

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UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

114<sup>TH</sup> Congress, First Session

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

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, 10:35 a.m., in Room SD-419, Room 419,  
2 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Bob Corker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 Present: Senators Corker [presiding], Risch, Flake, Perdue, Isakson, Barrasso,  
4 Cardin, Menendez, Shaheen, Coons, Udall, Murphy, and Markey.

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

5 THE CHAIRMAN. I am going to call the business meeting to order, and ask Senator  
6 Cardin and myself to make our opening comments, move them — through them as  
7 rapidly as possible so we can move on to the other meeting. I want to thank everybody  
8 for being here.

9 So the meeting will come to order.

10 On the agenda for today we have a number of nominations, including the  
11 director of Office to Control and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of ambassador-at-  
12 large, as well as over 600 personnel referred to the committee who have been  
13 nominated for appointment or promotion into and within the Foreign Service. I  
14 understand many of our colleagues have expressed concerns regarding two of the  
15 nominees. I want to also add we have had numbers of people pressing hard to ensure

1 that they get a vote.

2 I would suggest the State Department redouble its efforts to reach out to  
3 members on this committee in a meaningful and substantial way in good faith in an  
4 effort to attempt to address those concerns. And I do want to say that finally yesterday  
5 the State Department did come over with some documentation that one of our members  
6 had been requesting, and I appreciate that. I think there are a couple of other pieces  
7 that may be — being pursued at this time, but I would urge the State Department, let us  
8 get this out of the way and move especially one of the nominations on.

9 I would like to recognize — with that, I would like to recognize Senator Cardin,  
10 who I cherish serving with and for his comments relative to what is getting ready to  
11 happen.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BEN CARDIN,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MARYLAND**

12 SENATOR CARDIN. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I see that we do not have  
13 a quorum yet, so let me first thank you. And I want to just say publicly as the ranking  
14 Democrat on the committee, I thank Senator Corker for the manner in which he has  
15 moved nominations through this committee. We have had timely hearings and timely  
16 action. There are a few exceptions, and we talk about that.

17 But he has been very accommodating to our requests, and I thank him very much  
18 for that. And it is keeping with the tradition of this great committee to act timely on the  
19 nominations from the executive branch, and I thank you. And it is true today where we

1 have 13 nominations on our agenda for action.

2 As Chairman Corker has pointed out, two nominees who were originally noticed  
3 to be on today's agenda — Jennifer Haverkamp, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans  
4 and International Environment and Scientific Affairs, and Roberta Jacobson for  
5 ambassador of Mexico — will not be voted on in today's meeting.

6 I find that regrettable, and I understand there is great interest among members  
7 for additional information, particularly as it relates to Roberta Jacobson. I just wanted  
8 to point out that in Roberta Jacobson's case, we are talking about a career diplomat of  
9 the Senior Service — Senior Executive Service. She has served, as we all know, as the  
10 regional secretary, but she has also had direct experience in Mexico, and I do not think  
11 there is a more qualified person to become ambassador to Mexico. She has been on the  
12 calendar for about — she has been nominated about four months ago.

13 In Jennifer Haverkamp's case, this nomination is now about nine months old.  
14 She is imminently qualified. I could go through her qualifications. I will at the next  
15 meeting, but let me just mention and underscore probably the most important part of  
16 her qualifications. She is a Marylander, so she shows good judgment to live in the State  
17 of Maryland. But she is an associate professor at Johns Hopkins and worked in the  
18 USTR, EPA, et cetera.

19 So, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for the constructive manner in which you  
20 have gotten nominations for both hearings and action in this committee. Two

1 nominees, Jennifer Haverkamp for Assistant Secretary for the OES Bureau and Roberta  
2 Jacobson to be ambassador to Mexico, were removed from today's agenda late last night  
3 with the understanding between Senator Corker and me that both of these nominees  
4 will be on the next business meeting agenda next Thursday.

5 I believe that is our understanding, and I would just encourage all members to be  
6 prepared for next Thursday.

7 THE CHAIRMAN. Before turning to Senator Shaheen who wants to make a  
8 comment, that is our understanding. And I think — look, I am a strong supporter of  
9 Roberta, and I think people understand that. And at the same time, I know you know  
10 that one of the reasons we have handled the things we have is what we would like is an  
11 outcome, not just in the committee, but an outcome on the floor. And so, I know I had a  
12 long conversation with one of our members on this side of the aisle about the same  
13 thing last night.

14 In the other case, on the other nomination, I do fear that while I agreed to bring  
15 her up next week, and I understand somebody may try to hold her over for the next  
16 meeting. That is everybody's prerogative. I do fear that because work — the  
17 appropriate work has not been done yet relative to building support in the committee,  
18 that that could end up being a nomination that ends up being a dead end, if you  
19 understand what I am saying. I am trying to avoid that.

20 SENATOR CARDIN. I appreciate that. Mr. Chairman, I am optimist. I serve in the

1 United States Senate. You have to be an optimist.

2 THE CHAIRMAN. You have to be a few other things, too.

3 SENATOR CARDIN. So I am hopeful that between now and next Thursday in  
4 regards to Jennifer Haverkamp that we will have an opportunity for senators to meet  
5 with her and to be able to ask questions so that we can hopefully be able to move both  
6 nominations next week.

7 THE CHAIRMAN. Senator Shaheen?

8 SENATOR SHAHEEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to echo Senator  
9 Cardin's comments about the very positive and cooperative way in which nominations  
10 have moved through this committee. I think that is a tribute to you. It is a tribute to  
11 Senator Cardin and to all of the members.

12 I do have a concern, and you suggested that you are concerned also about it,  
13 about the way in which these nominations then have moved to the floor of the Senate.  
14 And I just have to call attention to one of those nominees who has been waiting for four  
15 months, and she moved through this committee on a voice vote, and that is Gail Smith  
16 —

17 THE CHAIRMAN. Yes.

18 SENATOR SHAHEEN. — who was nominated to be the administrator of USAID.  
19 And I think at a time when we have a refugee crisis around the world, when we see all  
20 of the conflict areas and the hot spots that USAID is very involved in, for us to be sitting

1 on a nominee who is non-controversial, who went through this committee on a voice  
2 vote, who has not been able to be brought to the floor because of the objections of one of  
3 our colleagues over the Iran deal, which has already been done and moved forward, is  
4 just unconscionable.

5 And I would hope that we would all work to try and move her nomination  
6 because we need to get that appointment filled.

7 THE CHAIRMAN. Yes. So just for what it is worth, I could not agree more. I think  
8 she is very highly qualified. She moved through here very rapidly, and, you know, we  
9 had to work out a — again, it was a kind of situation where there were some concerns,  
10 and we were able to resolve those before she came to a vote. And, therefore, you are  
11 right, there is a member who is holding this person up. We continue to have  
12 conversations with that member.

13 Please know that this is — this is not a case where, you know, the majority, if you  
14 will, is holding up a nominee to be — that is qualified.

15 SENATOR SHAHEEN. I appreciate that.

16 THE CHAIRMAN. And every senator, let us face it, has the right to be able to do  
17 those things. But hopefully we are going to make some progress on the hold being  
18 lifted and her becoming part of leading the USAID office, yes. I am sorry. Senator  
19 Coons?

20 SENATOR COONS. I just want to echo and support Senator Shaheen's comments. I

1 saw and spoke to the nominee over the weekend, and just — I was literally on the train  
2 down from Delaware this morning, was with a Syrian refugee who has just been  
3 resettled in the United States, and I had an opportunity for a heartfelt conversation. The  
4 reach and scope of the difficulties that USAID could be leading in our response to the  
5 refugee crisis continues to grow. If there is anything other members of this committee  
6 could do to help with relieving this one hold, I would welcome the chance to do that.

7 THE CHAIRMAN. And, you know, there are continual efforts to make that happen,  
8 and I do hope and think that USAID hopefully is still functioning, though. And, I  
9 mean, I do not want to make too big a thing out of this and turn it into something that  
10 maybe it is not, but I agree with you. We need strong leadership there, and I think she  
11 would provide that.

12 What I would like, if it is possible is, to have unanimous consent for the  
13 possibility of a rolling vote so that —

14 SENATOR CARDIN. We have enough for a quorum, but not for a vote yet. But, Mr.  
15 Chairman, I certainly would concur in your suggestion. I know members have a lot of  
16 scheduling conflicts right now. I think if we are rolling a vote, we would be able to  
17 report these nominees out this morning, so I would certainly concur in your request.

18 THE CHAIRMAN. Thank you for being here. If I could, what I would like to do  
19 then in the interest of time, I would ask the committee to proceed to an en block vote in  
20 consideration of the 13 nominees before the committee: Scott Allen to be U.S. director



1 of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Carolyn Alsup to be  
2 ambassador to Gambia; Ann Barr to be inspector general at USAID; John Estrada to be  
3 ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago; David Gilmour to be ambassador to the Togolese  
4 Republic; Jeffrey Hawkins to be the ambassador to the Central African Republic; Edwin  
5 Nolan to be the ambassador to Suriname; David Robinson to be the assistant secretary  
6 of state for conflict and Stabilization Operations as well as coordination for  
7 Reconstruction and Stabilization; Daniel Rubinstein to be the ambassador to Tunisia;  
8 Lucy Tamlyn to be the ambassador to Benin; Representatives Barbara Lee and Chris  
9 Smith to be representatives to the Seventieth Session of the General Assembly of the  
10 UN; and Susan Coppedge Amato to be director of the Office to Monitor and Combat  
11 Trafficking with the rank of ambassador-at-large, who I think will have more positive  
12 impact on what is happening in the TIP Office than anything that has happened in a  
13 long time.

14 I want to thank all these nominees for being willing to settle into these positions.  
15 Senator Cardin, I do not know if you have any additional comments. I would love to  
16 hear them.

17 SENATOR CARDIN. No, Mr. Chairman. Again, I thank you for expediting these  
18 nominees. One we just had a hearing just very recently, so we are very pleased that we  
19 are able to move these nominations forward.

20 THE CHAIRMAN. Are there any other comments by any other senators?

1 [No response.]

2 THE CHAIRMAN. Again, thank you all for being here. And I will have to ask since  
3 I have never done this before, how do we have a rolling vote?

4 Voice: Hold it open.

5 THE CHAIRMAN. So just for your edification if you are ever chairing one of these  
6 meetings —

7 [Laughter.]

8 THE CHAIRMAN. Everybody will vote now, and then we will record a vote as it  
9 comes in later with unanimous consent, which we have already achieved. So if there is  
10 no further discussion on the nominations, I would entertain a motion to approve these  
11 nominations, so by voice vote en block.

12 SENATOR FLAKE. So moved.

13 THE CHAIRMAN. Is there a second?

14 SENATOR CARDIN. Second.

15 THE CHAIRMAN. So moved and seconded. The question is on the motion to  
16 approve the nominees.

17 All those in favor, say aye.

18 [A chorus of ayes.]

19 THE CHAIRMAN. All opposed?

20 [No response.]

1 THE CHAIRMAN. The ayes have it, and the nominations are agreed to.

2 Our last order of business is the six Foreign Service officer list. I support these  
3 appointments and promotions, and would like to thank all those — all of these officers  
4 for their service. Senator Cardin?

5 SENATOR CARDIN. Again, I thank you for bringing this list up, and I strongly  
6 support it.

7 THE CHAIRMAN. Is there any other member who would wish to speak?

8 [No response.]

9 THE CHAIRMAN. Seeing none, I would entertain a motion that we approve them  
10 en block, as modified, by voice vote.

11 SENATOR CARDIN. So moved.

12 THE CHAIRMAN. Second?

13 SENATOR SHAHEEN. Second.

14 THE CHAIRMAN. Moved and seconded.

15 The question is on the motion to approve the Foreign Service list en block, as  
16 modified.

17 All those in favor, say aye.

18 [A chorus of ayes.]

19 THE CHAIRMAN. Opposed?

20 [No response.]

1 THE CHAIRMAN. The ayes have it, and the appointments and promotions are  
2 agreed to. And that completes the committee's business.

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

5 And with that and without objection, the committee will stand adjourned. Thank  
6 you all —

7 SENATOR CARDIN. I do not think we want to adjourn the committee. I think we  
8 want to keep it open, but we will start —

9 THE CHAIRMAN. Oh, good point on this roving —

10 [Laughter.]

11 THE CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

12 SENATOR CARDIN. With the consent — that we stay in session and keep the roll  
13 call open.

14 THE CHAIRMAN. Unanimous consent.

15 [The roll call vote remained open, and the scheduled hearing was called to order  
16 at 10:48 a.m.]

17 [At 11:00 a.m. the committee achieved attendance sufficient to close the vote. The  
18 portion of that hearing's transcript is appended here:]

1           SENATOR CARDIN. Mr. Chairman, if I could just ask, with the courtesy of our  
2 witness, we have the 10th member who is now here. If we could complete the business  
3 part of the meeting —

4           MR. COUNTRYMAN. Absolutely.

5           SENATOR CARDIN. — with your permission. I would appreciate that. We have an  
6 open roll call on the nominations that were before the committee as well as the lists that  
7 were submitted.

8           Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would hope that we allow Senator  
9 Menendez — it was a voice vote, but if Senator Menendez could express his view, I  
10 think we could close out those votes and report these nominations out.

11          THE CHAIRMAN. Senator Menendez, we have the nominations en bloc. I know  
12 you have a record of who those are, and just wonder if you support or oppose that list  
13 en bloc.

14          SENATOR MENENDEZ. My understanding is there is a revised agenda.

15          SENATOR CARDIN. That is correct.

16          THE CHAIRMAN. That is correct.

17          SENATOR MENENDEZ. Then I support them en bloc. The answer is yes.

18          THE CHAIRMAN. And Roberta on this — I am just kidding.

19          [Laughter.]

1           SENATOR MENENDEZ. At times I work — I struggle to get that Tennessee humor,  
2 you know?

3           [Laughter.]

4           THE CHAIRMAN. We have three FSO lists, as modified. We have three FSO lists  
5 as modified, too, and you support those.

6           SENATOR MENENDEZ. Yes.

7           THE CHAIRMAN. Thank you so much.

8           SENATOR CARDIN. Mr. Chairman, I think we then can close out the business  
9 meeting and report the nominees on the list.

10          THE CHAIRMAN. There may be others that wish to vote.

11          SENATOR CARDIN. Okay.

12          THE CHAIRMAN. But as of present, they will not, so meeting adjourned, and we  
13 now will continue with the hearing. Thank you.

14          [At this point the business meeting was adjourned.]