



# BUSINESS MEETING

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*



**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**



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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

3           PRESENT: Senators Biden [presiding], Feingold, Cardin, Casey, Lugar, Hagel,  
4 Coleman, Voinovich, Murkowski, Isakson, and Barrasso.

## **STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., U.S. SENATOR FROM DELAWARE**

5           THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, may we come to order.

6           We don't have a quorum yet, as you can see, but I thought maybe we'd just  
7 spend a second in the game plan, here. I think this ought to be a pretty quick meeting.

1           We have a vote at 2:30, and there's a subcommittee hearing in this room at 2:45.  
2   Is it this room? Oh, in Dirksen. Anyway, Senator Kerry is chairing the subcommittee  
3   meeting, so other Senators will be there at 2:45.

4           And what we have on the agenda are 19 nominations, best of knowledge -- and  
5   I'll yield, in a moment, to Dick -- to Senator Lugar; there is no controversy over any of  
6   them -- and two Foreign Service lists and two bills and one resolution. To the best of  
7   my knowledge, there is no controversy. I think all of you have signed off, through your  
8   staff, on each of them.

9           And so, at the appropriate moment, I'm going to suggest that -- to you, Mr.  
10   Chairman, that maybe we could approve the entire agenda, en bloc, by voice vote when  
11   we get a quorum. But, that's your call.

12           SENATOR LUGAR: I look forward to seconding that motion.

13           [Laughter.]

14           SENATOR LUGAR: But, I'd just take a moment to thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
15   the subcommittee chairmen, for the meetings that made this possible, because almost  
16   two dozen people will fill embassies at important times, and it can make a real  
17   difference in the impression our country has in each of those countries. And so, this is  
18   important work, and these are good people.

19           THE CHAIRMAN: And I know you all heard, as I did just a while ago, the news  
20   about Ted Kennedy. And obviously our prayers are with him. I've never met, in all the

1 years I've been here, anyone as energized. Never, never, I mean, you know, from the  
2 first day I got here, 35 years ago, to today. His passion is, you know, unable to be  
3 extinguished. I mean, he just keeps going. It's a heck of a thing, although I don't know  
4 enough to know the detail, except for the news reports, but I hope and pray, as you all  
5 do, I know.

6 SENATOR LUGAR: Well, in our luncheon, Mr. Chairman, why, immediately  
7 there was a call for a prayer.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: That's appropriate. That's appropriate.

9 Well, we are -- I guess we can technically recess until we find one more warm  
10 body looking like a Senator who may be a part of the Foreign Relations Committee to  
11 get this done.

12 [Laughter.]

13 THE CHAIRMAN: And the staff who have -- of our colleagues who aren't here,  
14 maybe if you could give a call and get some kind of sense of an update for us, if any of  
15 your bosses are likely to be on their way.

16 [Pause.]

17 THE CHAIRMAN: We now have a quorum.

18 I would ask that we approve the entire agenda -- that is, again, for the record, 19  
19 nominations, two Foreign Service lists, and two bills, and one resolution -- approve  
20 them, en bloc, by a voice vote.

1 SENATOR LUGAR: I second that motion.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor, say aye.

3 [A chorus of ayes.]

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

5 [No response.]

6 THE CHAIRMAN: It's been a pleasure doing business.

**[Whereupon, at 2:25 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]**