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BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

U.S. Senate
Committee on Foreign Relations
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:15 p.m. in Room SD-116, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. John Kerry, chairman of the committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Kerry [presiding], Lugar, Feingold, Casey, Cardin, Shaheen, Kaufman, Barrasso, and Corker.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN F. KERRY, U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM MASSACHUSETTS

3 The Chairman: The meeting will come to order. We
4 have six Senators here which is the requisite number to be
5 talking about amendments. So I'm going to proceed forward
6 so that hopefully everybody's here and we can have a rapid
7 vote.

8 We have four legislative items, including S.3317, the
9 Haiti Empowerment, Assistance, and Rebuilding Act of 2010,
10 three nominations, and a Foreign Service List.

11 On the Haiti bill, I'm pleased to join with Senator
12 Corker and Senator Cardin, Senator Durbin in co-sponsoring
13 the bill. This is a bill that we think sets an important
14 marker, if you will, with respect to the congressional
15 commitment of rebuilding Haiti.

16 There's been a lot of talk about it. This is the time
17 really to put the rubber on the road, so to speak. It
18 establishes a policy framework that emphasizes democratic
19 and competent governance, seeks to improve security and
20 | promote ~~the~~ economic growth and it tasks USAID with
21 developing a comprehensive rebuilding strategy.

22 I want to thank everybody, the staff on both sides,
23 and members of both sides for pulling this together. I
24 think we have a stronger bill as a result of the
25 constructive input from my colleagues on both sides of the

1 aisle.

2 There are two proposed amendments to the Haiti bill.

3 | One is the Manager's' Amendment which is just several minor
4 | fixes. They don't substantively affect any purpose or
5 | scope of the bill. The second is an amendment from Senator
6 | Lugar which reduces the authorization of the bill by three
7 | years and 1.5 billion and I support Senator Lugar's
8 | amendment and urge all of our colleagues to do so, as well.

9 The original legislation was written to try to
10 demonstrate our long-term commitment to Haiti by
11 authorizing for five years, but I recognize, and I think
12 Senator Lugar appropriately addresses a concern, that we
13 don't really know what's going to develop over the next
14 five years, and I think that's a fair comment. It may
15 change significantly in the next two years. So this gives
16 us an opportunity to re-examine the funding after that
17 period of time and to respond accordingly.

18 | So we need to vote on the Manager's' Amendment,
19 | ~~S~~Senator Lugar's amendment. I'm not aware of any requests
20 | for a roll call vote. I believe we are permitted with six
21 | -- with this current number -- what do we have? One, two,
22 | three, four -- we have -- we have a quorum. So we can
23 | proceed forward on all.

24 So we can have a voice vote on the Manager's
25 Amendment. Is there any debate on it at all?

1 [No response.]

2 The Chairman: If not, why, all those in favor say
3 aye.

4 [Chorus of ayes.]

5 The Chairman: Opposed, nay.

6 [No response.]

7 The Chairman: The ayes have it. The Manager's
8 Amendment passes.

9 On the Lugar amendment likewise, all those in favor
10 say aye.

11 [Chorus of ayes.]

12 The Chairman: Opposed, nay.

13 [No response.]

14 The Chairman: The ayes have it and it is amended. We
15 need to vote on the final bill as amended. Is there any
16 comment or debate?

17 [No response.]

18 The Chairman: If not, all those in favor of the Haiti
19 Act vote say aye.

20 [Chorus of ayes.]

21 The Chairman: Opposed, nay.

22 [No response.]

23 The Chairman: The ayes have it, and it is approved,
24 and I appreciate everybody's help on that.

25 We have three other quick legislative items. Senate

1 S.3104 amends the International Broadcasting Act of 1944
2 which created Radio Free Asia to provide RFA with a
3 permanent authorization. Senator Lugar introduced this
4 bill. Senators Kaufman, Webb, and Riche are among the co-
5 sponsors, and I understand, Senator Kaufman, you wanted to
6 say something about it.

7 Senator Kaufman: Yes. If you were on the Internet
8 during the riots in Tibet, the Number 1 thing Googled was
9 Radio Free Asia. More people followed it than any other
10 news service and when it got to the riots, it was the same
11 thing. They really exposed to the whole world what was
12 going on there before anyone else did and so it's -- it
13 deserves to be treated just like our other broadcasters and
14 not be up for sunset every so often.

15 Senator Lugar: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to commend
16 Senator Kaufman on his really extraordinary leadership in
17 this whole area of communication and I appreciate very much
18 working with him.

19 The Chairman: Well, thank you, Senator Lugar. I join
20 in commending our colleague. I think he's the Senate's
21 expert on all of our public communication programs and we
22 really appreciate and respect your commitment to that for a
23 long time.

24 The two resolutions on the agenda, one recognizes the
25 60th Anniversary of the Fulbright Program in Thailand.

1 Senator Lugar introduced this resolution. I'm pleased to
2 join him as a co-sponsor. A resolution, in addition to
3 that, that I introduced in recognition of the 2010 Shanghai
4 Exposition.

5 Finally, there are three nominations on the Foreign
6 Service List on the agenda, the nominations of Michael
7 Meehan and Dana Perino to the Broadcasting Board of
8 Governors and Michael Warren to the Overseas Board of
9 Governors. Two of those have been previously held over at
10 Senator DeMint's request. I think all three are qualified
11 nominees. I'd like to move them so.

12 If there are no requests for a roll call vote, I would
13 like to vote en bloc on all of those remaining items on the
14 agenda that I just listed. Is there any objection to doing
15 so?

16 [No response.]

17 The Chairman: If not, and no further debate, all
18 those in favor say aye.

19 [Chorus of ayes.]

20 The Chairman: Opposed, nay.

21 [No response.]

22 The Chairman: The ayes have it, and the business of
23 the committee is completed.

24 I thank everybody for providing a quick quorum. We
25 stand adjourned.

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