

1 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS MEETING

2 ON THE NOMINATION OF HEATHER A. HIGGINBOTTOM

3 TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

4 - - -

5 TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011

6 United States Senate,

7 Committee on the Budget,

8 Washington, D.C.

9 The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 12:33 p.m.,

10 in Room S-216, The Capitol, Hon. Kent Conrad, Chairman of

11 the Committee, presiding.

12 Present: Senators Conrad, Murray, Wyden, Nelson,

13 Stabenow, Cardin, Whitehouse, Warner, Merkley, Begich,

14 Coons, Sessions, Enzi, Cornyn, Portman, Toomey, and Johnson.

15 Staff Present: Mary Ann Naylor, Majority Staff

16 Director; and Marcus Peacock, Minority Staff Director.

17 Chairman Conrad. If I could have everybody's

18 attention.

19 The meeting will come to order. We are meeting to vote

20 on the nomination of Heather Higginbottom to be the next

21 Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

22 We will withhold statements for now. Anybody that

23 wants to submit a statement may do it for the record.

24 Senator Whitehouse. What, no statements?

25 Chairman Conrad. Yes, there are statements but they

1 will be offered in writing.

2 Unless Senator Sessions has anything to add, we can
3 move directly to a vote.

4 Senator Sessions. So we will have time throughout the
5 day to offer-

6 Chairman Conrad. Yes, sir.

7 Senator Sessions. Well, I am comfortable with that
8 circumstance. I got to express myself at the committee and
9 will be voting no.

10 In light of cooperating and getting this matter done, I
11 will submit a written statement.

12 Chairman Conrad. I appreciate it.

13 Senator Sessions. Maybe some of the other committee
14 members would want to speak. I think they should be allowed
15 to say a few words here before we vote.

16 Chairman Conrad. Let me just say that everybody will
17 have a chance to submit it in writing. I think we know that
18 people have made up their minds. So why don't we go to a
19 vote.

20 The question now before the Committee is the nomination
21 of Heather Higginbottom to be Deputy Director of the Office
22 of Management and Budget. A quorum being present, I now
23 move the Committee report this nomination to the Senate with
24 a recommendation the nominee be confirmed.

25 Is there a second?

1 Senator Cardin. Second.

2 Chairman Conrad. A second is heard.

3 Senator Sessions. Can we have a roll call?

4 Chairman Conrad. Yes. The clerk will call the roll.

5 The Clerk. Mrs. Murray?

6 Senator Murray. Aye.

7 The Clerk. Mr. Wyden?

8 Senator Wyden. Aye.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Nelson?

10 Senator Nelson. Aye.

11 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

12 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

13 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

14 Senator Cardin. Aye.

15 The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

16 [No response.]

17 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

18 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.

19 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?

20 Senator Warner. Aye.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Merkley?

22 Senator Merkley. Aye.

23 The Clerk. Mr. Begich?

24 Senator Begich. Aye.

25 The Clerk. Mr. Coons?

1 Senator Coons. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Sessions?

3 Senator Sessions. No.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

5 Senator Sessions. No, by proxy.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Enzi?

7 Senator Enzi. No.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?

9 Senator Sessions. No, by proxy.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Ensign?

11 Senator Sessions. No, by proxy.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

13 Senator Cornyn. No.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Graham?

15 Senator Sessions. No, by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

17 Senator Sessions. No, by proxy.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?

19 Senator Portman. Pass.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

21 Senator Toomey. No.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?

23 Senator Johnson. No.

24 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

25 Chairman Conrad. Aye.

1 Do we have Senator Sanders' proxy?

2 Senator Sessions. We have proxies on this sine.

3 Chairman Conrad. Well, can we hold open the vote until
4 Senator Sanders has a chance, under the rules?

5 Ms. Naylor. Yes.

6 Chairman Conrad. For how long?

7 Ms. Naylor. I think we have held it open for 10 or 15
8 minutes in the past.

9 Chairman Conrad. I think we should ask if that's
10 acceptable.

11 Senator Sessions. Well-

12 Chairman Conrad. What is the rule?

13 Mr. Gaeta. It is Chairman's discretion.

14 Ms. Naylor. You can report it out if you want, or you
15 can hold it.

16 Chairman Conrad. Senator Portman, will you cast a
17 vote?

18 Senator Portman. I am going to abstain.

19 Chairman Conrad. All right. I think we should--we can
20 go ahead and report it as is, we will just do that. We will
21 not wait for Senator Sanders. I mean, everybody was
22 advised. So we can report it out as 11-10.

23 With that, I want to thank everyone. I know this was
24 disruptive to schedules and there is so much else going on.
25 I very much appreciate everybody coming here to cast a vote.

1 With that, we will report the nomination.

2 [Whereupon, at 12:37 p.m., the Committee was

3 adjourned.]