

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
2 THE NOMINATIONS OF JAY CURTIS SHAMBAUGH, TO BE UNDER
3 SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF THE
4 TREASURY; AND REBECCA LEE HAFFAJEE, TO BE ASSISTANT
5 SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF
6 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

7 THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022

8 U.S. Senate,

9 Committee on Finance,

10 Washington, DC.

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12 The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at
13 10:05 a.m., in Room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office
14 Building, Hon. Ron Wyden (chairman of the committee)
15 presiding.

16 Present: Senators Stabenow, Cantwell, Menendez,
17 Carper, Cardin, Brown, Bennet, Casey, Warner,
18 Whitehouse, Hassan, Cortez Masto, Warren, Crapo, Cornyn,
19 Thune, Cassidy, Lankford, and Daines.

20 Also present: Democratic staff: Ian Nicholson,
21 Investigator/Nominations Advisor; and Joshua Sheinkman,
22 Staff Director. Republican staff: Lincoln Foran,
23 Policy Advisor; Kellie McConnell, Health Policy
24 Director; and Gregg Richard, Staff Director.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. RON WYDEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 OREGON, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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4 The Chairman. The Finance Committee will come to
5 order. It will be a hectic morning. We will consider
6 two pending nominations before the Finance Committee,
7 Jay Shambaugh and Rebecca Haffajee, and we have got many
8 committees conducting business, and certainly we are
9 going to have a full morning here in Finance.

10 After consulting with Ranking Member Crapo, and I
11 appreciate his cooperation as always, here is how we are
12 going to proceed. We will use the time now to make
13 statements about the nominees. I will make a brief
14 statement, followed by Senator Crapo, and followed by
15 any other Finance members who wish to make statements.

16 At that point, we will either vote or recess until
17 the next roll call vote on the Senate Floor when the
18 committee will reconvene in the President's Room off the
19 Floor to have the vote. My understanding is that that
20 is acceptable with Senator Crapo.

21 Senator Crapo. Yes.

22 The Chairman. Alright. First up will be Dr.
23 Rebecca Haffajee. She has been nominated to serve as
24 the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at
25 the Department of Health and Human Services. This role

1 is right at the center of the Department's efforts on
2 our biggest health challenges. One example that came up
3 during the hearing on Dr. Haffajee's nomination was a
4 major priority for both sides of this committee. It is
5 a topic Senator Crapo and I talk about often. It is
6 improving mental health care in America. It is
7 essential to have a full team and all available
8 expertise working on the issue, as well as many others
9 who are within the Department of Health and Human
10 Services purview. Dr. Haffajee is highly qualified for
11 the job and ready to go, having served as Assistant
12 Secretary since early 2021.

13 Then we will have Dr. Jay Shambaugh, nominated to
14 serve as Under Secretary for International Affairs at
15 the Treasury, another essential job, cracking down on
16 trade cheats, stopping currency manipulation,
17 particularly important of course the administration of
18 economic sanctions on Russia.

19 Dr. Shambaugh is a respected expert on international
20 economics. He also brings valuable experience as a
21 member of the Council on Economic Advisors. He is a
22 highly qualified nominee.

23 They have demonstrated their qualifications in their
24 nomination hearing earlier this month. They both stated
25 their willingness to work hard with the committee in the

1 months and years ahead. I look forward to supporting
2 their nominations, and I urge my colleagues to vote to
3 approve them as well.

4 Now we will hear from Senator Crapo on the nominees.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE CRAPO, A U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM IDAHO

3

4 Senator Crapo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding
5 today's markup on the nomination of Jay Shambaugh for
6 Under Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S.
7 Treasury, and Rebecca Haffajee for HHS Assistant
8 Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

9 At both the Departments of Treasury and HHS, the
10 Biden Administration has repeatedly failed to consult
11 substantively with Congress on key policy-making
12 decisions. Let me begin by knowing that both Dr.
13 Haffajee and Dr. Shambaugh are accomplished in their
14 respective fields.

15 However, I am disappointed by their responses to
16 questions by my colleagues, those that they and I asked
17 them in the hearing and subsequently in questions for
18 the record. In response to my colleagues' questions
19 regarding abortion, public health emergencies, and
20 religious liberty, Dr. Haffajee was evasive. For many
21 of these questions, she only stated she would follow the
22 law. That should be the case if she were to be
23 confirmed.

24 However, her unwillingness to provide any indication
25 regarding her thoughts on the issues at hand does not

1 reflect a good-faith effort at dialogue and partnership
2 with Congress, and gives me concern that she would
3 support efforts by the HHS Secretary to circumvent state
4 laws and individuals' Constitutional rights.

5 Turning to Dr. Shambaugh, he claimed to acknowledge
6 fully in the hearing, and in responses to questions for
7 the record, that the American Rescue Plan and proposed
8 reckless tax and spending programs urged by the Biden
9 Administration have exacerbated inflation and now
10 threaten to plunge the economy into a recession.
11 Fortunately, Dr. Shambaugh did acknowledge in his
12 response to my questions for the record that, and I
13 quote, "Inflation remains unacceptably high, and I agree
14 with the President that inflation should be the
15 Administration's top economic priority."

16 While the Fed has the primary role of fighting
17 inflation, I believe that the Biden Administration must
18 do its part to end inflation, including by stopping
19 reckless and partisan spending, including through
20 reconciliation, relieving businesses of burdensome
21 regulation, ending its war on American energy, and
22 desisting from its plans to crush American workers and
23 families with new onerous taxes.

24 Raising taxes, especially in the face of recession
25 and stagflation, leads to higher costs and inevitably

1 lower wages and higher prices -- workers are hurt, and
2 prices in the midst of the highest inflation in more
3 than 40 years.

4 If confirmed, Dr. Shambaugh and the rest of the
5 Biden Administration should heed this advice.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 The Chairman. I thank my colleague. Would Senator
8 Grassley like to say something?

9 Senator Grassley. The way my schedule is today, and
10 just in case you do not get it here, you might do this
11 off the Floor, would it be possible for me to express my
12 support for Mr. Shambaugh and my opposition to the other
13 nominee? Would that be possible? Because I do not
14 think I am going to be able to stand around the Floor to
15 --

16 The Chairman. Please go ahead.

17 Senator Grassley. Okay, thank you. I appreciate
18 that courtesy.

19 The Chairman. All right, any other colleagues?

20 [No response.]

21 The Chairman. Okay, we will, as we indicated, be
22 voting off the floor.

23 [Whereupon, the meeting was recessed, to reconvene
24 the same day.]

25

1 The open executive session was reconvened, pursuant to
2 notice, on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 1:45 p.m., in
3 Room S-216, The President's Room, U.S. Capitol, Hon. Ron
4 Wyden (chairman of the committee) presiding.

5 The Chairman. We will now continue the open
6 executive session from this morning to consider the
7 nominations of Curtis Shambaugh and Rebecca Haffajee.

8 I would entertain a motion to favorably report the
9 nomination of Mr. Shambaugh.

10 Senator Crapo. So moved.

11 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.

12 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

13 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

15 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

17 Senator Menendez. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

19 Senator Carper. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

21 Senator Cardin. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?

23 Senator Brown. Aye.

24 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?

25 Senator Bennet. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?
2 Senator Casey. Aye.
3 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
4 Senator Warner. Aye.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
6 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?
8 Senator Hassan. Aye.
9 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?
10 Senator Cortez Masto. Aye.
11 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
12 Senator Warren. Aye.
13 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?
14 Senator Crapo. Aye.
15 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
16 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
17 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
18 Senator Cornyn. Aye.
19 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
20 Senator Thune. Aye.
21 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?
22 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
23 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?
24 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.
25 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?

1 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

3 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

5 Senator Cassidy. No.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

7 Senator Lankford. No.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

9 Senator Daines. No.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

11 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

13 Senator Crapo. Aye by proxy.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

15 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

17 The Chairman. Aye.

18 The clerk will announce the vote.

19 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 23
20 ayes, 5 nays.

21 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. The
22 nomination is ordered favorably reported.

23 I would now entertain a motion to favorably report
24 the nomination of Ms. Haffajee.

25 Senator Stabenow. So moved.

1 The Chairman. The clerk will call the roll.
2 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?
3 Senator Stabenow. Aye.
4 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?
5 Senator Cantwell. Aye.
6 The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
7 Senator Menendez. Aye.
8 The Clerk. Mr. Carper?
9 Senator Carper. Aye.
10 The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?
11 Senator Cardin. Aye.
12 The Clerk. Mr. Brown?
13 Senator Brown. Aye.
14 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?
15 Senator Bennet. Aye.
16 The Clerk. Mr. Casey?
17 Senator Casey. Aye.
18 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
19 Senator Warner. Aye.
20 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
21 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.
22 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?
23 Senator Hassan. Aye.
24 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?
25 Senator Cortez Masto. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
2 Senator Warren. Aye.
3 The Clerk. Mr. Crapo?
4 Senator Crapo. No.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
6 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
8 Senator Cornyn. No.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
10 Senator Thune. No.
11 The Clerk. Mr. Burr?
12 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.
13 The Clerk. Mr. Portman?
14 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.
15 The Clerk. Mr. Toomey?
16 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.
17 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?
18 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.
19 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?
20 Senator Cassidy. No.
21 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?
22 Senator Lankford. No.
23 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
24 Senator Daines. No.
25 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

1 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Sasse?

3 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

5 Senator Crapo. No by proxy.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

7 The Chairman. Aye.

8 The clerk will announce the vote.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 14
10 ayes, 14 nays.

11 The Chairman. Since the committee vote having
12 concluded in a tie vote, in accord with section 3 of
13 Senate Resolution 27, I will transmit a notice of the
14 tie vote to the Secretary of the Senate in accord with
15 section 3A of such resolution, thereby giving either
16 the majority or the minority the authority to make a
17 motion to discharge the nomination pursuant to section
18 3B of such resolution.

19 I thank my colleagues, and with that the committee
20 is adjourned.

21 [Whereupon, at 2:32 p.m., the meeting was
22 concluded.]

	STATEMENT OF:	PAGE
1		
2	Hon. Ron Wyden,	2
3	a U.S. Senator from Oregon,	
4	chairman, Committee on Finance	
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6	Hon. Mike Crapo,	5
7	a U.S. Senator from Idaho	