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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 18, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Tsongas

FROM: Peter Galbraith

SUBJECT: Procedure on Voting Out Nominations

The normal procedure for voting out nominees is for a supporter to make a motion to report the nomination (implicitly, favorably). If passed, the nomination goes to the floor. If the motion to report is defeated, then the nomination stays in Committee (and presumably) is dead.

A variant could be to report the nomination unfavorably. This would bring it to the floor with a Committee recommendation that it be defeated. From the perspective of killing the nomination, it would be better not to report it out. However, a shrewd supporter of a nominee without votes in Committee, but with a chance on the floor (e.g., Lefever) might offer a substitute motion (report unfavorably) to the motion to report favorably. Assuming the votes are there to stop the nominee, it would be best to oppose the motion to report out unfavorably and then oppose the motion to report.