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NOMINATIONS OF RUSSELL A. ROURKE TO BE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
AND HENRY E. CATTO, JR., TO BE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

NOMINATIONS OF

RUSSELL A. ROURKE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

AND

HENRY E. CATTO, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

APRIL 29, 1981

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NOMINATIONS OF RUSSELL A. ROURKE, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND HENRY E. CATTO, JR., TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1981

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met in open session pursuant to notice, at 10:07 a.m., in room 212, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. John Tower (chairman) presiding.

Present: Senators Tower and Warner.

Staff present: Rhett B. Dawson, staff director and chief counsel; James F. McGovern, general counsel; Paul C. Besozzi, minority counsel; Christine E. Cowart, assistant chief clerk; Michael B. Donley, and Edward B. Kenney, professional staff members.

Also present: Jim Dykstra, assistant to Senator Cohen; Bill Furniss, assistant to Senator Quayle; Jon A. Schreiber, assistant to Senator Denton; Gray Armistead, assistant to Senator Byrd; and Greg Pallas, assistant to Senator Exon.

OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR JOHN TOWER, CHAIRMAN

Chairman TOWER. The committee will come to order.

This morning the committee will consider the nominations of Mr. Russell A. Rourke to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs and Mr. Henry E. Catto, Jr., to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

Without objection, your nomination reference and report and your biographical sketch will be entered in the hearing record at this point. [The information follows:]

NOMINATION REFERENCE AND REPORT

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
April 22, 1981.
(Under authority of the order of the
Senate of April 8, 1981.)

Ordered, That the following nomination be referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

Henry E. Catto, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Thomas B. Ross, resigned.

_____, 1981.

Reported by Mr. _____ with the recommendation that the nomination be *confirmed*.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF HENRY E. CATTO, JR.

Name: Henry E. Catto, Jr.

Address: Washington, D.C.

Home Address: McLean, Virginia

Place and Date of Birth: Texas, December 6, 1930.

Education: Texas Military Institute, Williams College 1952, B.A., American History.

Career: 1952-69—In business: insurance, real estate, personal investing in San Antonio, Texas. Director of Houston Post Co.; Director of GALVESTON NEWS. Director, The Bank of San Antonio. Active in civic affairs as President of United Fund; Director of YMCA; Symphony Society, etc. Commissioner of Public Housing Authority.

1969-71—Deputy U.S. Representative to the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. Also U.S. Representative to Inter-American Council on Education, Science and Culture. Rank of Ambassador.

1971-73—U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador.

1973-74—Consultant, Department of State, Washington, D.C.

1974-76—Chief of Protocol for the White House and Department of State.

1976-77—U.S. Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations, Geneva, with Rank of Ambassador.

1977—present—Chairman, IBIS Corporation. Chairman, Washington Communications Corporation. President of the Catto Foundation. Director, Houston Post Company, publishers of the Houston Post, operators of KPRC-TV and KPRC-Radio, Houston; WTVF-TV, Nashville. Director, First American Bank of Washington. Director, The Atlantic Council.

Languages: Spanish, French.

Family: Married in 1958 to Jessica Hobby of Houston. Four children, ages 15 to 21.

Memberships: Center for Inter-American Relations, Pilgrims of the United States, Metropolitan Club of Washington.

 NOMINATION REFERENCE AND REPORT

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

April 22, 1981.

(Under authority of the order of the
Senate of April 8, 1981.)

Ordered, That the following nomination be referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

Russell A. Rourke, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Russell Murray II, resigned.

_____, 1981.

Reported by Mr. _____, with the recommendation that the nomination be *confirmed*.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF RUSSELL A. ROURKE

Born; New York City, December 30, 1931. Son of: Francis Xavier and Ethel Marian (Johnson) Rourke. Married: October 14, 1961 to Judith Anne Muller. Children: Patricia, Elizabeth and Mary Frances.

Education: University of Maryland (1953), BA with honors Georgetown; University Law Center (1959), LLB.

Military: Enlisted in United States Marine Corps (1953). Released as 1st Lieutenant in 1956 after serving in Korea. Presently Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. 1972-74—Commanding Officer of Marine Air Control Squadron 24, Quantico.

Professional experience: 1977 to Present: Administrative Assistant to Rep. Harold S. Sawyer (Republican—Grand Rapids, Michigan).

1976-77: Special Assistant to President Gerald R. Ford. Principal responsibilities included legislative liaison between the White House and the Congress, daily contact with Members of the House and Senate, policy and program meetings with the President, members of the Cabinet and the White House Senior Staff. Also undertook special projects assigned to me by the President. Final responsibilities included assignment to White House transition team.

1974-76: Deputy to Presidential Counsellor John O. Marsh, Jr. Duties substantially the same as when Special Assistant to the President. Secondary duties involved coordination with and direction of certain functions of Office of Public Liaison.

1974: Republican-Conservative nominee for Congress in the 36th District of New York.

1965-74: Administrative Assistant to Rep. Henry P. Smith, III (Republican, New York). Principal committee jurisdiction: Judiciary and Interior. As No. 1 assistant was entrusted with responsibility to manage all the Representative's affairs and to assist him in every area of Congressional activity, covering a broader spectrum of duties than normally assigned Hill assistants. Managed the office and supervised the staff. Handled all press and public relations. Responsible for all written materials including speeches, legislative statements, news releases. Handled constituent correspondence. Assisted with committee work. Conceived proposals for legislation. For all intents and purposes, was involved in all the duties of a Congressman, except voting.

1960-64: Administrative Assistant to Rep. John R. Pillion (Republican, New York). Principal committee jurisdiction: Appropriations. Same duties and responsibilities noted during period of employment with Rep. Smith.

1959-60: Associated with law firm of Keogh, Carey and Costello, Washington, D.C.

Memberships: District of Columbia Bar Association; American Bar Association; Federal Bar Association; Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity; Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Fraternity; Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association; CRONYS (Chairman: 1970-1975); Administrative and Legislative Assistants on staffs of Republican Congressmen and U.S. Senators. RAMS.

Admitted to practice before U.S. Supreme Court (1964). Member, Board of Visitors, U.S. Naval Academy (Presidential Appointee).

Chairman TOWER. I want to congratulate both of these gentlemen for having been selected to these two very important positions in the Department of Defense.

Before we hear from them, I would like to advise the committee that both gentlemen have agreed to comply with the committee's policies and procedures concerning personal and financial disclosures and conflicts of interest.

I will first call on Mr. Catto, who, I might add, although he says he is a Virginian is, in fact, a Texan. He was born and reared there, and married a Texas girl. He cannot escape that fact even though he has had a distinguished career as a diplomat and a public servant, and has become a Virginia gentleman.

I don't know what kind of boost that is—sideways, upward, downward, or forward.

Senator WARNER. We tried to claim him, Mr. Chairman, but I am advised that is a printing error, and it should read "Mr. Catto of Texas."

Chairman TOWER. I am delighted to set the record straight for the gentleman from Virginia.

I have known Henry Catto for years. He is a good friend. I have always respected his ability and his dedication as a public servant.

I am delighted to welcome both of you, gentlemen.

First we will hear from Mr. Catto.

Do you have a statement you would like to make?

**STATEMENT OF HENRY E. CATTO, JR., OF TEXAS, NOMINEE TO
BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Mr. CATTO. No, sir. I have no prepared statement.

Chairman TOWER. Mr. Rourke is also a man of distinguished record. We are also delighted to welcome him here this morning. He is a gentleman we will be seeing a great deal of from time to time. We know that we will have a good relationship with Mr. Rourke, and we will try to be helpful to him and the Department.

Mr. Rourke, do you have a statement you would like to make?

**STATEMENT OF RUSSELL A. ROURKE, OF MARYLAND, NOMINEE TO
BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS**

Mr. ROURKE. No, sir, other than to indicate although we presently live in Maryland, I lived for many years in the State of Virginia and therefore have become an ardent admirer of the Senator from Virginia.

The only time I was in Texas in my life was when, as a Marine Corps reservist, my plane was forced down in Amarillo and we spent a beautiful weekend in that delightful Texas town. It was a 104° August weekend.

On a serious note, Mr. Chairman, I have been on the Hill, as my record indicates, for 18 years, and spent several years at the White House with former President Ford. I have been in the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserve for 27 years. I sincerely feel that this position provides me with a very selfish opportunity to join those two backgrounds in what I think is a just cause, and I am extremely enthusiastic about working so closely with a committee like this that has held the banner high at a time when that banner was not necessarily saluted by too many people in this country and throughout the world.

So, for the yeoman's job that this committee in particular has done in maintaining the balance of forces during some unhappy days, I salute the committee, and I look forward with great enthusiasm to working for and with the members of the committee in the weeks ahead.

Chairman TOWER. I must say, you are off to a good start. You have said all the right things.

Mr. Rourke has his lovely wife, Judy, here.

Judy, would you please stand?

Unfortunately, Mr. Catto did not bring his wife, Jessica. She is a career person of distinction in her own right and is working today. I understand that situation of being married to a lady lawyer.

I have no particular questions.

Senator Warner, do you have any questions?

Senator WARNER. Perhaps just a little observation, Mr. Chairman.

I have known both nominees for many years and have had valued personal and professional relationships with both gentlemen for the past 6 or 7 years.

When Secretary Weinberger presented the posture statement for the Department of Defense, I and others made the observation that the Congress was ready to support additional defense spending. I think the work of this committee, as announced by the chairman yesterday, confirmed that willingness on the part of the Senate.

Members of this committee forewarned the Secretary that the greatest danger is loss of momentum occasioned by incidences of waste and mismanagement, particularly in regard to the cost overrun problems.

Both of you bring a measure of experience to the Department of Defense. I hope you will assist your Secretary in obviating these problems through your involvement with Members of the Congress.

The Nation's defenses have been neglected for decades. The citizens are fully supportive of their President.

Senator Tower and I had the privilege of being in the House Chamber last night when perhaps one of the most historic moments occurred—the President appearing before the Joint Session of the Congress. He can lose that support of the American public very quickly, however, with bad examples coming from the biggest budget items.

An extraordinarily heavy burden falls on your shoulders, Mr. Catto, in relating to the public and the media; and yours, Mr. Rourke, in your daily work with the Members of Congress. Both of you are in a position to see the first signs of this problem and to assist the Secretary in heading it off.

I am sorry that Mrs. Catto is not here. I have been a long admirer of hers. I would like to say, in her absence, and to Mrs. Rourke that, based on some modest experience in that Department, myself, wives should know that nothing of any consequence occurs after 7:30. The Department has a way of considering itself omnipotent after that hour and going on ad infinitum. Rule a heavy hand on these two men, because they will be able to serve far better if they get home and enjoy some of the comforts of family life and restore their vigor for the following day.

It is my privilege to be here this morning to welcome both of these distinguished Americans. Looking at their career patterns and accomplishments to date, it is clear to me that they are giving up a great deal of opportunity in the private sector to take on this challenge. I, for one, am very grateful. Thank you.

Mr. ROURKE. If I may comment, briefly, Mr. Chairman, on the Senator's remarks, there has been a rather Herculean effort made in the Department of Defense this year to reduce the cost of providing for the National Defense. I know every service and agency talks about it, and our discussions carry over into our private lives. The substantial efforts being made in the Department of Defense strike at the heart of exactly what you mentioned.

Should the Department of Defense lose what you are working so hard to provide us with, that is, the authority to implement the kind of defense we need to carry out our national and foreign policy goals and the capability to manage it most efficiently, if we lose those opportunities, we not only will have lost momentum for this year but we will have also lost the encouragement and support of the public in the years ahead.

For that reason, Secretary Weinberger and Frank Carlucci with their respected backgrounds in this field, have brought, I think, a very, very unique—and I don't say that because they are Henry's and my respective principles—combination of backgrounds which help assure that the moneys appropriated are spent prudently and wisely, and that as a result, we do get a strong national defense.

Today Frank Carlucci is on the House side testifying in support of multiyear procurement legislation. What we hope will result from the hearing will support the many things that the Department has been working on since the day those two people arrived on the other side of the Potomac. The hallmark of that operation, the Weinberger-Carlucci operation, is to see to it that the American public gets the best—and there is no better way to put it—“bang for the buck,” that we get the best defense for the tax dollar. They feel that every day. It is reflected every day, as Henry knows, in the meetings we attend.

Mr. CATTO. I want to add one brief comment.

It is clear to me that Secretary Weinberger heard Senator Warner loud and clear in the comments that Senator Warner made to him. I think it is gratifying and interesting that Secretary Weinberger enjoys the reputation that he has as “Cap the Knife,” as the press constantly wants to call him, and he has no intention whatsoever of losing the credibility of a man who is careful with the public’s money, a reputation built up over many years.

I think you can rest assured that there is little danger that the momentum that the President has generated is going to be lost in the vast recesses of the Pentagon. I think Secretary Weinberger is going to keep his eye on the Sparrow and see to it that the tax dollars that are expended are expended well.

Chairman TOWER. Not only the Sparrow but also our other missile systems as well.

Mr. Rourke, you really will be sort of a conduit between the Congress and the Secretariat in the Department. I am delighted to hear you say what you have said. In fact, our job is more difficult today than it has ever been because we are beginning to fund defense adequately.

Because of the reduced expenditures in a number of important, domestic areas and the substantial increases in defense expenditures, we are going to have to justify every dime that we spend. The public is going to question whether or not our defense dollar is being spent efficiently and spent in such a way as to give us, as you say, the “biggest bang for the buck.”

As you know, the mass media already is having a go at it—talking about goldplated systems, inefficiencies and waste. We have to do everything possible to insure that we can justify every dollar we spend for defense. There certainly is no greater priority that a government has than to provide its people with security from its external enemies. This is a priority of the Federal Government—the first priority, in my view. Others might have different views, but that does not excuse us from being very, very diligent, indeed, in seeing that the American people get their money’s worth.

We are all pro defense on this committee. We believe in a strong defense. We are conscious of our deficiencies and the need to redress those deficiencies at once, because we are spending the taxpayers’ money. Therefore, we are going to scrutinize everything very closely.

We will give you everything you need to the extent that Congress will permit us to. Just make sure that you need it.

Mr. Catto, we currently enjoy U.S. support for substantial increases in defense spending. A recent AP-NBC poll indicated that

about 70 percent of the American people support increased defense spending, while at the same time reducing domestic spending. That is heartening. We hope that we can maintain that consensus.

The way you articulate the case for national defense to the public and the way you explain what the Department is doing, will have a great deal to do with public acceptability of what the Defense Department is doing and what we on the committee are doing.

So, you both have enormously important and responsible jobs. I know that you both have the capability to fulfill those functions and I congratulate you on your nomination.

I think I can give you reasonable assurance that the committee will act favorably on the nominations.

Senator WARNER. Mr. Chairman, may I add a few more words?

I have had the privilege of serving under three consecutive Secretaries of Defense. Each one came before the Congress and made comparable pledges, what you and others have done, yet we are still plagued with the problems of waste and inefficiency.

I hope that this team can achieve some measure of accomplishment that others, although they tried with equal sincerity, did not achieve.

In this room, in the past 10 days, we have gone through markup sessions, and several times members have referred to either a statute or report language requiring the Department of Defense to take certain actions within a stipulated period. Contingent upon those actions, the Congress would then decide on further expenditures or withdrawal of authorization.

Would you join me, Mr. Chairman, in saying that we felt there were too many instances in which there had not been compliance by the Department of Defense with the specific directions of the Congress. I hope that this administration will correct that record and not have a similar situation?

Chairman TOWER. You are certainly right, Senator Warner.

I am afraid that the congressionally mandated programs in previous administration were very often treated as options rather than mandates. When we mandate a program, it is because in our judgment it is the right thing to do. If the Department disagrees with us, it should say so and come back with reclamation and try to persuade us that its point of view should prevail.

Once we mandate a program, we expect it to be carried out, and we expect the Department to be responsive to the Congress. I think you have an excellent opportunity to establish good relations with the Congress in that connection and keep us informed on a regular basis.

There are some questions that Senator Thurmond wanted to ask both nominees. We will submit those questions for the record and ask you to respond to them in writing.

[Questions with answers supplied follow:]

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR THURMOND

Senator THURMOND. Ambassador Catto, what are your general views on how this office to which you have been nominated should be conducted?

Answer. I would consider my office to be chartered to keep the American public informed about matters of national defense. I see it as my duty and responsibility to expedite the flow of complete and accurate defense information as rapidly as possible. This policy, of course, would be in the context of protecting that information which would jeopardize national security or the safety of our Armed Forces. Furthermore, I hope to help the American people understand that their Armed Forces are the shield of their freedom.

Senator THURMOND. Ambassador Catto, one of your predecessors tried to justify false statements to the public. Would you give your views on that subject?

Answer. As the Assistant of Defense for Public Affairs, I expect to be truthful and candid in all of my dealings with the news media within the bounds of national security. I realize there may be times when I will be unable to make all of the information available for reasons of safety or security; in those cases I expect to remain silent.

Senator THURMOND. Ambassador Catto, it is my opinion the public must be given all possible facts on the Soviet buildup. Will you endeavor to get unclassified information on the Soviet threat to the American people?

Answer. The buildup of the Soviet Armed Forces has been of major concern to President Reagan and Secretary Weinberger. All Soviet forces—conventional, nuclear, strategic, naval—have been increased dramatically over the past 10 to 15 years. It will certainly be my policy to bring this fact to the American public as expeditiously and fully as possible.

Senator THURMOND. Ambassador Catto, in 1976 the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, now the American Forces Information Service, was transferred from the supervision of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Manpower and Reserve Affairs to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. At the time of the transfer we were told that the public and internal functional responsibilities would continue to be separate and there would be no commingling of appropriated moneys, personnel or other resources from the internal side in support of Public Affairs activities. Will this continue to be your policy?

Answer. Yes. Since the American Forces Information Service was transferred to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, its budgetary and manpower resources have remained inviolate and have not been tapped by any Secretary. I do not plan to change that policy.

Senator THURMOND. Ambassador Catto, I also expressed concern that civilian control be maintained over the American Forces Information Services. Will you continue to have a civilian as Director, and will he continue to report directly to you?

Answer. The civilian Director of the American Forces Information Services currently reports directly to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. I intend to continue that policy.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Rourke, what is your view as to the responsibilities of the position to which you are nominated as it regards dealing with the Congress?

Answer. As Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, my primary responsibilities are to assist Secretary Weinberger in presenting the Department of Defense legislative program to the Congress and to provide input to the Department from the Congress which will facilitate coordinating, planning, and implementation of the policies responsible for protecting the security of our country.

In addition, I fully understand the great importance of furnishing, in a timely manner, information in response to requests received from Members of Congress and the committees of Congress and their staffs.

Senator THURMOND. Will you be responsive in your dealings with the Congress?

Answer. Yes, I am fully prepared to work with the Congress and assist you in any way possible to fulfill our common goal of improving our defense posture and strengthen America's national security.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Rourke, although the committee has requested repeatedly that statements of Defense Department witnesses be provided the committee several days prior to a hearing, we seldom receive them. Will you endeavor to correct this situation.

Answer. I understand and totally agree with the importance of providing to the committees of Congress advance copies of testimony being presented by Department of Defense officials. Not only is this true in terms of its usefulness to the committee in being prepared to conduct a thoroughly planned and comprehensive hearing session, but, from a parochial viewpoint, there is great additional value to be realized by the Department in discussing an issue with the committee in an intelligent and substantive manner which is facilitated by prior submission of witnesses' statements.

Chairman TOWER. I will hold the record open until 5 p.m. this afternoon for any additional Senators who would like to submit questions to you for the record. If you will respond to those in a timely fashion, we will be grateful.

If confirmed, Mr. Catto, will you assure this committee that you and your staff will respond to all questions and requests for information from this committee and any other appropriate committee of the Congress in a forthright and expeditious manner?

Mr. CATTO. Yes, sir, I can assure you I will.

Chairman TOWER. Mr. Rourke, are you prepared to give us that assurance?

Mr. ROURKE. Yes, sir.

Chairman TOWER. Gentlemen, thank you very much.

Is there anything else?

Senator WARNER. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be recorded in favor of both nominees.

Chairman TOWER. We should report your nomination out very soon and take it up on the floor as soon as possible. I anticipate no difficulties in the Senate on your confirmations. There are no problems I know of on either one of them, so we will move as rapidly as possible toward confirmation.

Mr. CATTO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROURKE. Thank you very much.

Chairman TOWER. Senator Warner, if you will move that they be favorably reported, I will ask the staff to poll the members.

Senator WARNER. I so move, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman TOWER. If there is no objection, it is so ordered.

The committee is adjourned.

Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 10:27 a.m., the committee was adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.]

[Mr. Russell A. Rourke's and Mr. Henry E. Catto, Jr.'s nominations were reported to the Senate on April 30, 1981, and confirmed on May 4, 1981, respectively.]



