

Since a formal transcription of the hearing is not yet available, we have transcribed key parts of the hearing. These excerpts are as accurate as possible, but if you would like to check them for accuracy or context, the approximate times during the hearing in which they occurred are included. You can listen to the hearing by going to <http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/2005/hr051025a.html> and clicking on NOMINATIONS at the top of the page.

Importance of the Bureau

(~37:00)

Sauerbrey in Opening Statement: I believe that this bureau is a very important instrument in the foreign policy toolbox for protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The bureau's capable foreign service and civil service staff daily confront human tragedy from the ravages of conflict, torture, and trafficking to atrocities like family separation, rape, and even murder.

Budget Management

(~39:25)

Sauerbrey in Opening Statement: Assisting refugees while maintaining the capacity to respond to new crises requires sound budget management.

Skills Required

(~54:45)

Sauerbrey in response to Boxer: I've given a lot of thought to what are the skills that are required to build on the strengths that are distinct in the bureau. And in my mind, there are five. I think first of all you have to be able to motivate and lead people. Secondly, you certainly have to be able to handle and manage the large resources as you pointed out of the bureau. You need to be very adept at coalition building because there are many, many partners that make this bureau function. You need to understand the UN system and to be adept at working within the multilateral system. And I think probably most important we need to have a compassion and a caring for helping to protect vulnerable people.

Background for the Job

(~56:30)

Boxer: I'm wondering if there is anything in your background that specifically deals with the kind of issues that you are going to face

Sauerbrey: Most refugees are women and children and in the course of the last four years working at the UN, I have worked with every issue that is pertinent to women, human rights, and they are certainly pertinent to refugees. The issues of trafficking, gender-based violence, of maternal mortality, of female genital mutilation. I think I bring to this a great understanding of these issues that face refugee women and while refugees are not all women these are certainly the most vulnerable. But you also are talking about management issues and I think it is important that the committee understands that I have managed large and worked with large budgets. When I was the minority leader in the state of Maryland, I oversaw, and within the minority caucus for the first time I hired a budget director and we developed a multi-billion budget that was a credible alternative budget for the state of Maryland so I do have experience

in managing resources; I do have experience in managing people. Now I have worked with many of the issues that are going to be very important to the bureau and I think these are highly transferable skills.

No Experience

(~1:03:25)

Boxer: I don't think we see the requisite experience that we've seen in other nominees.

Ideologue

(~1:06:40)

Boxer: I believe this is not a position for an ideologue.

Experience of Predecessors

(~1:08:45)

Sarbanes: This refugee issue is a very important part of the responsibilities. Your three, your three predecessors in this office have all had very extensive experience in dealing the refugee issue. It's a very complex issue. Gene Dewey was the U.S. Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees. He was director of the office of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union at USAID. He'd been Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Refugee Programs and a number of other positions over a long career. Julia Taft, whom we know very well, actually a Republican appointed by President Clinton for this position of Assistant Secretary had been director of the office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance at AID, director of the Bureau of Refugee Affairs and acting U.S. Coordinator for Refugees at the Department of State, a number of other positions, I won't through all of them. And Phyllis Oakley, who has been before this committee many times, was the Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Refugee Programs, twenty years a career, more than twenty years a career foreign service officer, she's actually handled some very difficult assignments.

Lack of Experience

(~1:12:30)

Sarbanes: “[The recent editorial coverage] seems to me legitimately puts to issue your experience or the lack thereof in terms of working oversees with refugees and with displaced persons. These are some of the most traumatic humanitarian crises that we face worldwide. What's your response to this deep concern that is now being manifested from a number of sources?”

Sauerbrey: “Thank you, Senator. Again I appreciate the opportunity to respond. Over the last five years, my experience has been working in the multilateral environment at the UN both on human rights and with women's issues. I have had the opportunity to travel extensively to areas of the world, the underdeveloped and developing parts of the world where the conditions for women have been abominable. And I have seen and I have worked personally with women who have been the victims of conflict, trafficking, of extraordinary degradation. So I have a very deep commitment to the fundamental work of this Bureau, which is protecting vulnerable people. And I have also got a very great commitment to demonstrating

the humanitarian leadership of the United States. In terms of the experiences, I was responding earlier to Senator Boxer. I think that this should I be confirmed I'm very fortunate because I've worked enough with the Bureau already to see that these are very competent people that are in place today and the Bureau is very well run. As Assistant Secretary, I need to build on a strong framework that is in place and I believe that management skills, handling of money, resources, leading people, motivating people, building coalitions are transferable skills. And I have done this, Senator Sarbanes, as I think you have watched in Maryland some of the things that I have been involved in. I was very proud when I was able to close down the census office that I was talking about earlier that I managed 300 people under budget and received from your former colleague Senator Mathias an award for having done that, an award from the Department of Commerce for having done that under budget. When I was the national chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council I was able to work with seven thousand state legislators from all over the country of both parties to bring them together around a legislative agenda, to manage and oversee a staff in that office and a multi-million dollar budget. And as the minority leader and leader of the party in Maryland working with a seven at that time seven and a half billion dollar state budget as a member of the appropriations committee, as a member of the ways and means committee, as a member of the joint budget and audit committee, I have had extensive experience in developing budgets and managing resources and making sure that they're used effectively. I think these are the skills that one needs along with a humanitarian heart to get the job done to protect the most vulnerable people that this bureau is charged with protecting." (~1:12:40)

Refugees and Refugee Crises

(~1:17:10)

Sarbanes: Have you done any work directly involving refugees and refugee crises here before?

Sauerbrey: What I have done has been to work within the UN system, to work with some of the organizations that the Assistant Secretary is going to have to work through. This Bureau as you know, Senator, works through the multilateral system and the NGO community, working with UN High Commission on Human Rights, bringing the diplomacy skills to bear to get other countries to join with the United States for maximum burden sharing not only of resources but of admissions, of greater willingness to resettle in other countries. These are the types of skills that I think are going to be very important in this position.

Resettling Refugees

(~1:18:15)

Sarbanes: Are part of the duties of the Assistant Secretary to address the question of resettling refugees in the United States?

Sauerbrey: Absolutely. I consider that to be a major responsibility, Senator.

Sarbanes: Now, have you done work on that issue in the past?

Sauerbrey: I haven't directly had that opportunity. But I have certainly worked with in preparation to have a very good understanding of how the system functions and again to recognize that the Bureau has to be able to bring together people within the US government to work with the Department of Homeland Security, to work with Department of Health, to work with the FBI, to work with USAID because really the function of the Assistant Secretary of this Bureau is to make a coalition of a number of partners including NGOs which I have who I've

worked with in many ways extensively to bring these resources together to make this system function.

Background of the Nomination

(~1:29:25)

Sarbanes: I'm a little curious how this came about. Did you, were you interested in this particular position and express an interest in being nominated for it or were you, did someone approach you about going into this position? I mean, was this something you had thought about doing yourself and sort of engendered an interest in it or did it sort of come to you out of the blue, so to speak?

Sauerbrey: Senator Sarbanes, I was very honored to be doing what I was doing and really enjoyed my work with helping women. I was also however very honored to receive a call from the White House indicating an interest in and suggesting that they felt I had done a very good job in my current position and were interested in whether I would be willing to take on additional responsibilities. I was honored that both the President and Secretary Rice approached me about joining this team and I, if confirmed, will work very hard to live up to that honor.

Sarbanes: Did you meet with them about this position?

Sauerbrey: I met with the office of White House personnel and with Secretary Rice.

CEDAW

(~1:21:10)

Sarbanes: I wanted to ask-- if I understand it you've taken a position against the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW, is that correct?

Sauerbrey: Senator, I have reflected the concerns that you are fully aware of of the Administration. Those concerns being that because of the number of positions that have been taken by the committee, the CEDAW committee, some very controversial issues regarding prostitution, regarding abortion, regarding motherhood, regarding childcare that the position of the Administration that consideration of CEDAW needs much more consideration.

Sarbanes: The thing that raises the question there is as I understand it, and maybe I'm mistaken, you can correct me, but that a treaty list formally submitted by the Administration identifies CEDAW as one of the treaties which the Administration believes are generally desirable and should be approved. Is that correct?

Sauerbrey: My understanding is that in the first year of the Bush Administration that was correct but that subsequently as there have been more and more issues raised because of the actions of the CEDAW committee that the Administration's position is that there needs to be more study and that is, as I understand, where CEDAW is today.

Sarbanes: Well I don't think they've withdrawn that list. And I'm just wondering whether these positions you're, whether you're sort of out in front of the Administration in this position or whether it reflects a change in position on their part, which has not been to communicated to the Congress.