

through the committee, we can always put it on an appropriations bill. That was the comment made.

Mr. President, that is not the right way to do business on a major fundamental policy change, to tack it on as one line, as was described by Senator HOLLINGS, that we can always just zero out the funding. That is not the way we should be doing business.

This issue should be decided by all 100 Senators on the floor of the Senate. I am not saying the sponsors of the legislation are wrong. But this has to do with billions of dollars in acquisitions, or nonacquisitions, with fundamental changes within the media. The answer was, well, we will put it on an appropriations bill if we cannot get it through committee. The committee will be marking it up on Thursday. I don't know if it will get to the floor. That is up to the majority leader but, more importantly up to my colleagues who may put holds on it.

These are serious issues that impact greatly the United States of America, and they are being decided on appropriations bills, stuck in without even so much as a hearing many times. I will be on the floor many times on this issue because it is a long way from us being able to remove this power from the Appropriations Committee and put it back into the authorizing committees where it belongs.

Finally, some of the proudest and most intense and enjoyable moments of my political career have been as chairman of the Commerce Committee. I believe the Commerce Committee is well suited to address these issues. I believe the Commerce Committee is well suited to authorize major programs and address major policy challenges that confront the Nation, whether it is commerce, science, transportation, information technology, telecommunications, aviation, or all of the other issues. I don't think they should be decided by the Appropriations Committee, as far as policy is concerned. As far as the amounts of money are concerned, that is their job. I pretend to have no ambitions on that issue.

We have to get this out-of-control—and I mean totally out-of-control—situation under control. The situation has been dramatically exacerbated by the fact that we are now looking, in sheer whole numbers, at the highest deficits in the history of this country. As far as a percent of GNP, they are not the highest, but we are talking about at least \$400 billion this year.

We are about to—I am happy to say—pass a Medicare prescription drug program that will cost about \$400 billion or more over a 10-year period. We are looking at Social Security and Medicare. We cannot afford this high cost anymore. I believe the chairman of the Rules Committee will be holding a hearing on this issue. I don't believe it would get through the Rules Committee, but I am very grateful to Senator LOTT that he would allow a hearing on this issue. But I do not intend to

give up on it. We will be discussing it and debating it for a long time.

My constituents—and every American—do not expect us to act in this fashion, which in many cases is totally irresponsible.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, the Congressional Budget Act, Rule 21 of the House of Representatives, and Rule 16 of the Senate are all designed to establish a balance between authorizing legislation and appropriations bills that would allow Congress to consider authorizing legislation in a timely and thoughtful manner, and prevent the year-ending appropriations process from degenerating into a venue for policymaking and provincialism.

Yet, according to CBO, over the past several years, the total amount of unauthorized appropriations has ranged between about \$90 billion and \$120 billion annually, and since 1998, the number of earmarks has risen by 150 percent to 10,540, which cost \$44.6 billion in 2002 alone. This trend has made a mockery of our institutional arrangement and beckons us to take action to fix the system.

The bill introduced today is not perfect, but it recognizes the deficiencies in current procedure and represents an earnest and thoughtful attempt to correct them. It would improve Rule 16 to close the loophole that currently insulates Senate appropriations committee-reported bills containing unauthorized appropriations and legislative language from points of order, while preserving the Senate's "defense of germaneness" to amend legislative language in House-passed appropriations bills.

It would also preserve balance between the Houses by allowing any Senator to raise a point of order against unauthorized appropriations included in a House-passed appropriations bill, conference report, or amendment between Houses. Finally, the bill attempts to regulate the practice of using committee or conference report language to earmark funds.

We have a problem; I think that much is clear. If other Members of this chamber do not agree with specific provisions of this bill, I ask that they offer constructive suggestions as to how best to breathe life back into Rule 16 and the institutional balance between authorization and appropriations. In the midst of the War on Terrorism and projected budget deficits, it would be an abrogation of our role as elected officials to allow the status quo to persist.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, June 18, 2003, at 10 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on Native American Sacred Places.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, June 17, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., to hear testimony on the "Implementation of U.S. Bilateral Free Trade Agreements with Singapore and Chile."

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 17, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing on "Treaties Related to Aviation and the Environment."

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, June 17, 2003, at 10:00 a.m., to hold a business meeting to consider pending Committee business.

Agenda

Legislation: S. 481, the Kurtz Bill; S. 589, Homeland Security Workforce Act; S. 610, NASA Workforce Flexibility Act of 2003; S. 678, Postmasters Equity Act of 2003; S. 908, United States Consensus Council; S. 910, Non-Homeland Security Mission Performance Act of 2003; S. 926, Federal Employee Student Loan Assistance Act; S. 1166, National Security Personnel System Act; and S. 1245, Homeland Security Grant Enhancement Act.

Post Office Naming Bills: S. 508, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1830 South Lake Drive in Lexington, South Carolina, as the "Floyd Spence Post Office Building"; S. 708, a bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7401 West 100th Place in Bridgeview, Illinois, as the "Michael J. Healy Post Office Building"; S. 867, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 710 Wicks Lane in Billings, Montana, as the "Ronald Reagan Post Office Building"; S. 1145, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 Baldwin Avenue in Paia, Maui, Hawaii, as the "Patsy Takemoto Mink Post Office Building"; S. 1207, a bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 East Ritchie Avenue in Marceline, Missouri, as the "Walt Disney Post Office Building"; H.R. 825, an act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7401 West 100th Place in Bridgeview, Illinois, as the "Michael J. Healy Post Office Building"; H.R. 917, an act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1830 South