companies and workers work as a team, they do better, and so does America.''

So, that is what we are trying to do here. This bill simply amends the Federal laws to make it clear that employers and employees may meet together in committee, or other employee involvement programs, to address issues of mutual concern, such as quality, productivity, and efficiency. So it expressly says, also, that they cannot engage in collective bargaining. It expressly forbids company unions and sham unions. It simply lets workers and employers try to work as a team.

I am amazed that there is such concern about this. But my attitude on that, also, is that if there are some amendments that can be offered on that and we can debate it and have votes, if they pass, fine, and if they do not, fine. But this is something we ought to move on.

One other point, in terms of trying to block people or limit the free expression of ideas here. As a matter of fact, we have done a little research, and we have found that in the 104th Congress, there has been a need for cloture motions more than in any recent time. In fact, in the 102d Congress, there were 42 cloture motions filed, and in the 103d, 47; but in the 104th Congress, it has been necessary, already, to file 63 cloture motions.

Let me give one example of how ridiculous this really is. S. 1, the first bill we considered last year, on unfunded mandates, had broad support and passed overwhelmingly. I think the vote was 98 to 2, or something like that. It was overwhelming, whatever the final vote was. But we had to file four cloture motions to try to get it to come to conclusion, and get a vote on it.

So I really find it sort of surprising when our colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem to hint that we have been trying to cut them off. That has not been the case. But we have a responsibility to try to get the work done around here. Yes. Let us have free debate. But after a certain period of time you have to get down to voting. That is what we are trying to set up with our process this afternoon.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I also am pleased to release today draft legislation to reauthorize the Corporation of Public Broadcasting. The draft would provide a simple reauthorization of $250 million each year for the fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000. It is my hope that by then, public broadcasting would no longer need a reauthorization, but would have the resources to thrive on its own.

Last year we began a very worthwhile debate about the future direction of public broadcasting. Survival was never a real issue. I believe public broadcasting will do more than just survive—it will thrive. Public broadcasting is a success story still being written. I am confident of this. Public broadcasting offers a quality product supported by quality individuals who care about what people, especially young people, see or hear on television and radio.

It was in part due to my confidence in public broadcasting that I proposed last year to put public broadcasting on a glide path to independence from Washington—independent from Congress and independent from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. I support public broadcasting. Yet, I've never quite understood the logic of the funding process. There has to be a better way to fund public broadcasting than through CPB, which soaks up a large share of funding before it ever gets to the 350 public television stations and 629 public radio stations. A large chunk comes right back here to D.C. to buy programming disproportionately produced in the largest media markets. There just has to be a better way—especially for small city broadcasters.

Last year's debate produced some much-needed innovations. Public broadcasting has improved as a result. I called on public broadcasting to take advantage of the popularity and value of its wonderful programming. They're doing so now. Last year, new ancillary agreements were reached that will see a larger portion of merchandise revenue from public broadcasting products go right back to public broadcasting. Media alliances have been formed with MCI and Turner to distribute public broadcasting programs on video and CD-ROM's. Even PBS has discovered that its logo generates revenue. Foreign markets are an untapped source for programming and products. Even the Internet offers enormous potential for public broadcasting, both as a conduit for classroom-based, interactive educational programming and as a base to market its products. In short, we really haven't begun to tap the enormous funding potential of public broadcasting in the worldwide marketplace.

I also believe we must continue to push for greater efficiencies within CPB—reforms that also can free up revenues. Will all these potential funding sources and markets allow public broadcasting to achieve financial independence? It's a question that we should explore.

So today I am circulating a discussion draft that would not only reauthorize public broadcasting, but also explore and chart a path toward independence. The first way is to give public broadcasting tools to generate more revenue. My draft legislation would give public broadcasting enhanced underwriting authority—enough to draw in new corporate sponsors but not too far to undermine the noncommercial integrity of public broadcasting. The draft also would allow public broadcasting stations to use overlapping station capacity to generate revenue.

These proposals would allow some stations to benefit. However, if all of public broadcasting is to thrive, especially smaller stations such as in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana, we need to bring the best people in finance, government and broadcasting together to chart a course for independence. To do this, the draft proposes creation of a Commission on Public Broadcasting Empowerment. This commission would have 2 years to submit recommendations to Congress that would: foster long-term funding for public broadcasting that would not compromise its essential noncommercial nature; improve economic efficiencies within public broadcasting; guarantee universal access to public broadcasting, particularly in rural, under served areas; and stimulate the development of regional programming centers in order to increase geographic diversity in the origination of programming.

Finally, the draft would authorize the creation of a trust fund to be used to generate sufficient capital for public broadcasting to achieve financial independence. This trust fund approach was first proposed by the public broadcasters late last year. The public broadcasters proposed a more far-reaching approach that would enable a private trust to generate funds through the management of advanced spectrum and the leasing of unused spectrum for commercial purposes. This thoughtful proposal has merit. I support the creation of a trust fund. I believe that the draft spectrum legislation I have proposed today would provide public broadcasters with the resources needed to capitalize a trust fund in a way that would benefit the entire public broadcasting community—radio and television, in markets large and small.

Because this proposal would bring major change to public broadcasting, it deserves careful review. I'm already beginning that review.

Clearly, financial independence will be a key issue. However, other reforms are needed, particularly in the distribution of funds for broadcasting and programming. I am particularly interested in reforms that will enhance the capabilities and creativity of small city and rural broadcasters. In small cities and towns, public broadcasting is vital. South Dakota Public Radio [SDPR], for example, provides pool coverage to commercial stations around the State for legislative reporting, because it has the only radio news reporter on duty during the legislative session. In some markets, SDPR is the sole radio provider of local news, and the exclusive source of Emergency Broadcast System announcements.