

experienced legislators that we have, the Senator from West Virginia, Senator BYRD, and the Senator from Washington, Senator GORTON. They do great work. But they have a bill that has some issues that will be controversial and should be debated. And they should be. But I hope that Senators will cooperate better on this bill with the managers and with leadership on both sides of the aisle than what we saw this week on the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill. That was a big disappointment and a very poor exhibition by the Senate. We spent 25 hours 38 minutes on a bill, basically an appropriations bill that is relatively small and should not have been controversial. The problem was there were over 100 amendments offered, most of them nongermane. In a couple of instances the managers withheld going to a vote so that Senators could come over and speak on their amendment and the Senators never showed up. That is disrespectful of the process, the managers, and the institution. We should not do that.

I have tried to keep the focus on getting our work done. The best thing for us to do now, or any other time of the year, is just do what needs to be done under the rules of the Senate and for the American people. I have been playing it straight. I have been trying to discourage amendments that could be considered political or blow this place up. But I reached the conclusion last night that that might not be possible. We spent all day yesterday, we spent the last 10 hours on that bill basically with partisan political positioning amendments being offered for TV spots.

I refuse as majority leader to: first, accept amendments that should not be accepted on a continuous basis; second, to ask responsible Senators to walk the plank on obviously blatant political amendments one after another. I mean my attitude is, OK, a little bit of that. You do a little yourselves, and we do a little ourselves. You score your points, and we score our points. Let us move on, and do the business.

It was obvious to me by late last night that the Senate was not being serious and that this was politics. I have in my hand exhibit A, the proof of what was being done on the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill. Here is the political plan for the Democrats for this year. They have their parts, and in their components under these three main titles, there is an issue here, like health care. Then they have the amendments they have planned to offer in that area. I mean it is just pure politics. I am not going to play that game. We are not going to have it on Interior. If the Senators start playing blatant politics on the Interior bill, it will meet the same fate that Treasury-Postal Service did. I am not going to have that. I do not think Senator BYRD or Senator GORTON will allow it. I urge them for every amendment of that type that is offered to move to table it right away.

I also want to serve notice that, if there are going to be blatant political amendments put out here, we will have a second degree to every one of them. It will ball this institution up. That is not right. These Senators have done good work, important work, on a bill that America wants and needs.

Let us do our business. Let us do it in a bipartisan and as nonpolitical way as possible realizing this is a political institution. If we do, it will reflect well on all of us. We will all benefit politically.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Under the order, leadership time is reserved.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3662, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3662) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Appropriations, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

H.R. 3662

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, namely:

#### TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

For expenses necessary for protection, use, improvement, development, disposal, cadastral surveying, classification, acquisition of easements and other interests in lands, and performance of other functions, including maintenance of facilities, as authorized by law, in the management of lands and their resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, including the general administration of the Bureau, and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to Public Law 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150(a)), **[\$566,514,000]** *\$578,692,000*, to remain available until expended, of which **[\$2,000,000]** *\$2,010,000* shall be available for assessment of the mineral potential of public lands in Alaska pursuant to section 1010 of Public Law 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150); and of which \$3,000,000 shall be derived from the special receipt account established by the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-6a(i)); and of which

\$1,000,000 shall be available in fiscal year 1997 subject to a match by at least an equal amount by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to such Foundation for challenge cost share projects supporting fish and wildlife conservation affecting Bureau lands; in addition, \$27,300,000 for Mining Law Administration program operations, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and credited to this appropriation from annual mining claim fees so as to result in a final appropriation estimated at not more than **[\$566,514,000]** *\$578,692,000*; and in addition, not to exceed \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended, from annual mining claim fees; which shall be credited to this account for the costs of administering the mining claim fee program, and \$2,000,000 from communication site rental fees established by the Bureau for the cost of administering communication site activities: *Provided*, That appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros in the care of the Bureau or its contractors: *Provided further*, That in fiscal year 1997 and thereafter, all fees, excluding mining claim fees, in excess of the fiscal year 1996 collections established by the Secretary of the Interior under the authority of 43 U.S.C. 1734 for processing, recording, or documenting authorizations to use public lands or public land natural resources (including cultural, historical, and mineral) and for providing specific services to public land users, and which are not presently being covered into any Bureau of Land Management appropriation accounts, and not otherwise dedicated by law for a specific distribution, shall be made immediately available for program operations in this account and remain available until expended.

#### WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses for fire use and management, fire preparedness, suppression operations, and emergency rehabilitation by the Department of the Interior, **[\$247,924,000]** *\$264,609,000*, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$5,025,000 shall be for the renovation or construction of fire facilities: *Provided*, That such funds are also available for repayment of advances to other appropriation accounts from which funds were previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That persons hired pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1469 may be furnished subsistence and lodging without costs from funds available from this appropriation: *Provided further*, That unobligated balances of amounts previously appropriated to the "Fire Protection" and "Emergency Department of the Interior Firefighting Fund" may be transferred to this appropriation.

#### CENTRAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND

For necessary expenses of the Department of the Interior and any of its component offices and bureaus for the remedial action, including associated activities, of hazardous waste substances, pollutants, or contaminants pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), \$12,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, sums recovered from or paid by a party in advance of or as reimbursement for remedial action or response activities conducted by the Department pursuant to sections 107 or 113(f) of such Act, shall be credited to this account to be available until expended without further appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums recovered from or paid by any party are not limited to monetary payments and may include stocks, bonds or other personal or real property,