

Last week, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee held a hearing on a settlement bill where both parties agreed to mediation. The House Resources Committee has been holding field hearings on settlement. This is the way the trust fund dispute should be resolved—not in back-room deals.

Third and finally, this provision perpetuates a shameful pattern of neglect of American Indians and tribes and a failure of the Federal Government to meet its legal and moral obligations to them.

Mr. President, there's another shameful truth about this bill—and that is what is not in it.

Earlier this month, during Senate debate on the Interior appropriations bill, Democrats offered an amendment to address a critical funding shortfall for the Indian Health Service—a shortfall so acute that Indian people are frequently turned away from IHS clinics and hospitals unless they are literally in danger of losing a life or limb. They are denied earlier, less expensive care that might prevent such a dangerous condition in the first place.

We asked our Republican colleagues to restore the \$292 million that they had promised, during the budget debate, to support. They refused. The actual shortfall in IHS clinical services is over \$2.9 billion. And our colleagues refused to provide one-tenth of that amount in this bill. They refused to support one-tenth of what is needed to provide basic health services to American Indians.

Our Republican colleagues said they agreed on the need for better health care for Indian people; they said they agreed that much of the care being denied is truly essential; but they said, we simply can't afford to do more. Given some of the spending we've seen lately, that excuse rings pretty hollow to Indian people. And it rings pretty hollow to me, too.

We spend twice as much on health care for Federal prisoners as we spend for American Indians. The Indian Health Service has to ration care because of lack of funding. That is inexcusable.

Despite these deep flaws with the Indian trust fund and the Indian Health Service, the Senate has approved this rider, in part because this conference report contains many other programs that are urgently needed. But this is not the end. This in no way absolves the Interior Department of its legal and moral obligation to restore integrity to trust fund management as soon as possible. We will continue to press for a full and fair accounting of all assets in the Indian trust funds. And we will continue to push for full funding of Indian health care. It is long past time that we keep the promises we have made to American Indians and tribes.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for clarification for those of us who have an interest in the proceedings from this point forward, if I could inquire, do we have anything scheduled now other than morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We do not.

Mr. LOTT. Do we have any idea how long morning business will last?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are not in morning business yet.

Mr. LOTT. Do we anticipate morning business of 15 minutes—or how long? I would like to keep an eye on this place. I just as soon it not be any longer than necessary. I would like the staff to be able to go home.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair does not have any orders at this point in time.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, could I inquire of the leadership? Do we have any idea what the schedule for the remainder of the evening will be?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, through the Chair, we are working on the schedule right now. We just cleared the Syria Accountability Act and we are going to be making some plans shortly. We will be in morning business for a while. I wouldn't send staff home until we have planned out exactly what we will be doing. We should know in about 20 minutes or so. We have gotten a lot of things cleared. Right now we are working on this. We will get the schedule planned in a very few minutes. We will be in morning business and may be doing a little more business tonight as we go forward. I do not expect to have any more rollcall votes tonight.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the leader for that information.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAHAM). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE INTERNET TAX NONDISCRIMINATION ACT—S. 150

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support

S. 150, the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act.

As many of my colleagues have heard me say on many occasions, I believe it is important that we—and I tried to do it myself—advocate policies and ideas that promote freedom and opportunity for all Americans. We in the Senate must advance ideas that help create more investment, thereby creating more jobs and prosperity rather than more burdens from taxation and regulation.

This measure permanently extends the moratorium banning access taxes and taxes that discriminate against the Internet. It is one of my priorities. I know the Senator presiding shares that same philosophy and has been a great leader in that regard.

As we all know, the Internet is one of our country's greatest tools and symbols of innovation and individual empowerment. I look at the invention of the Internet as profoundly transforming and revolutionary for the dissemination of ideas and information, as important as was the Gutenberg Press.

Accordingly, I think everyone in the Senate would want to help the Internet grow and flourish as a viable tool for education, information, and commerce. I stand on the side of freedom of the Internet, trusting free people and free entrepreneurs—not on the side of making this advancement in technology easier to tax for the tax collectors.

One of the great things about the Internet is that it is not limited by boundaries of State governments, local governments, not even limited by the boundary of this country. Clearly, the Internet is intrastate commerce. Thus, the Federal Government, Congress, has jurisdiction in the taxation and regulation of the Internet.

My legislation, S. 150, promotes equal access to the Internet for all Americans and protects every American from harmful, regressive taxes on Internet access services as well as duplicative and predatory taxes on Internet transactions. Specifically, as reported out of the Commerce Committee, S. 150 has five provisions.

First, it extends permanently the country's Federal prohibition of State and local taxation on Internet access service.

Second, it makes permanent the ban on all multiple and discriminatory taxes relating to electronic commerce. This ensures that several jurisdictions cannot tax the same transaction simply because the transaction happens to occur over the Internet.

Third, my legislation repeals the so-called grandfathering provision over a 3-year-period.

Fourth, we make clear the original intent of the Internet Tax Freedom Act by updating the definition of Internet access to ensure the moratorium applies consistently to all consumers. If we are going to exempt Internet access services from taxation permanently, then it makes sense to do so in a manner that applies to all methods and