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NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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PUBLIC BROADCASTING FUNDS

**TAXPAYERS DESERVE ACCOUNTABILITY & BALANCE FROM PUBLIC TV & RADIO:
DEBATE ABOUT BIG BUCKS, NOT BIG BIRD; 1.1 BILLION TAX DOLLARS ON LINE**

I AM PLEASED WE ARE BACK ON THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING BILL, EAGER TO GIVE THIS ISSUE THE KIND OF REVIEW IT DESERVES.

LET'S FACE IT, WHEN IT COMES TO THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING ESTABLISHMENT, HEALTHY DEBATE HAS BEEN LONG OVERDUE. I MUST SAY, MY PEEK INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING NETWORK HAS BEEN A REAL EYE-OPENER.

THANKS TO THE GOOD WORK OF SEVERAL OF MY COLLEAGUES AND OUR STAFFS, WE HAVE UNEARTHED ENOUGH FACTS TO BEGIN ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS, THE KIND OF INFORMED QUESTIONS TAXPAYERS EXPECT US TO ASK WHEN IT COMES TO DECIDING WHETHER ANY FEDERALLY-FUNDED PROGRAM DESERVES A 50% INCREASE, WHETHER IT IS THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING, THE PENTAGON, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND, YES, EVEN CONGRESS.

AND I AM PLEASED THAT OUR QUESTIONS HAVE LED TO A SERIES OF GOOD FAITH DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MY STAFF AND OFFICIALS OF EVERY PUBLIC BROADCASTING ENTITY. AS A RESULT OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS, I AM CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING ESTABLISHMENT WILL BETTER FULFILL ITS CONGRESSIONALLY-MANDATED RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND BALANCE.

AMERICA IS BROKE -- \$4 TRILLION DEBT

SO THAT IS WHAT WE WILL BE DEBATING -- ACCOUNTABILITY, BALANCE AND A 50% INCREASE FOR THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING THAT WILL BOOST FUNDING TO \$1.1 BILLION FOR THE YEARS 1994 THROUGH 1996. LET'S FACE IT, \$1.1 BILLION IS A LOT OF MONEY, ENOUGH IN FACT TO REBUILD LOS ANGELES.

REMEMBER THAT IT WAS IN THIS CHAMBER JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT WE DEBATED EMERGENCY AID FOR OUR INNER CITIES IN THE WAKE OF THE RIOTS IN LOS ANGELES; AND THE DEBATE IS STILL GOING ON.

BIG CITY MAYORS AND SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE BLASTING PRESIDENT BUSH FOR NOT SPENDING ENOUGH. WE ARE TOLD THAT ONE BILLION DOLLARS ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH. AND SO CONGRESS HAS ADDED ON ANOTHER ONE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS TO THE SO-CALLED L.A. PACKAGE.

UNFORTUNATELY, NO ONE IS WILLING TO FIND A WAY TO PAY FOR ALL THAT EXTRA FUNDING -- JUST USE THE GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARD AGAIN.

NOW, I'M NOT SAYING INNER CITIES DON'T NEED MORE HELP. FAR FROM IT. BUT EVERYONE NEEDS MORE HELP THESE DAYS. AND FOR EVERY PROBLEM, SOMEONE IS GOING TO OFFER A GOLD-PLATED SOLUTION. CONGRESS IS GOOD AT THAT.

ALL THE GOOD THINGS WE HAVE TO HAVE

WELL, THE FACT IS, AMERICA IS BROKE. WE SIMPLY CAN'T PAY FOR ALL THE GOOD THINGS WE "HAVE TO HAVE".

WE SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD ALL THE "GOOD THINGS" FOR THE INNER CITIES, OUR MILITARY BASES, OUR FARMS, OUR SCHOOLS, OUR HOSPITALS, THE UNEMPLOYED, AMERICA'S HIGHWAYS, MASS TRANSIT, THE ELDERLY AND, YES, EVEN FOR ALL THE GOOD THINGS FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, IT'S EASY TO IMAGINE ALL THE "GOOD THINGS" WE COULD DO IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE DEFICIT. BUT THE TRUTH IS, BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE NATIONAL DEBT WILL EXCEED \$4 TRILLION DOLLARS. AND THAT BOTTOMLINE WON'T GO AWAY, NO MATTER HOW WE TRY TO RATIONALIZE IT, AS MANY ADVOCATES FOR FEDERALLY-FUNDED PROGRAMS TRY TO DO: OUR PROGRAM ONLY COSTS THE TAXPAYER ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, THEY TELL US, A REAL BARGAIN. OR ONLY 20 CENTS. OR TEN BUCKS PER TAXPAYER. BUT PRETTY SOON THAT TAXPAYER IS GOING TO BE BURIED UNDER ALL THOSE "BARGAINS" HE OR SHE CAN'T AFFORD.

CPB: PRIVILEGED ADVANCED FUNDING

LET'S ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS FUNDING NOT FOR THIS YEAR, AND NOT FOR NEXT YEAR. THIS IS FUNDING THAT DOESN'T GO INTO EFFECT UNTIL FISCAL YEAR 1994. IT IS SO-CALLED ADVANCE FUNDING, PRIVILEGED FINANCING FEW OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS EVER GET. AND LET'S BE CLEAR -- PUBLIC BROADCASTING IS GOING TO BE FUNDED, AS IT HAS BEEN EVERY YEAR