

his father guided the Wenatchee World to become one of the State's finest daily newspapers. Wilfred and his father were truly part of a legendary experience that has forever changed the political and economic landscape of north-central Washington. While the Woods family will be remembered most for their influence over the management of the Columbia River system, I will remember Wilfred as a true friend. During my years of touring Washington State for various political engagements and meetings, I always looked forward to my stop in Wilfred's newsroom and valued our countless conversations, whether we were in agreement or not. I will miss our exchange of ideas and his insights into the central Washington community. I wish him continued success in future endeavors.●

**NEW MEXICO HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER PERFORMING ARTS FACILITY**

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, S. 1417, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide for the design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of a center for performing arts within the complex known as the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center, was introduced and passed the Senate on November 7, 1997.

Because the measure was considered and passed on the same day as its introduction, the Committee on Environment and Public Works was not referred S. 1417, and a report was not filed. Subsequent to the passage of the legislation, however, the Congressional Budget Office issued a cost estimate, as required under the Senate rules. Therefore, I ask that the letter from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, dated November 17, 1997, be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
Washington, DC, November 17, 1997.  
Hon. FRANKLIN D. RAINES,  
Director, Office of Management and Budget,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. RAINES: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for the pay-as-you-go effects of S. 1417, the Hispanic Cultural Center Act of 1997.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

**SUMMARY OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS**  
(In millions of dollars)

	By fiscal year									
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Change in outlays .....	0	6	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Change in receipts .....						Not Applicable				

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Christina Hawley Sadoti. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.●

**RADIO STATION MERGERS**

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, during the course of the last several months, the number of broadcast radio station transactions has increased due to the liberalized station ownership provisions contained in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. However, with this increase in transactions has come an increased concern that, in authorizing these assignments, the FCC may try to impose terms and conditions on the assignors or assignees neither contained in, nor intended by, the 1996 act.

Radio mergers must be permitted to go forward when they satisfy the requirements under the plain meaning of the statute. While the Senate is in adjournment, I expect the FCC to follow the law, not rewrite it, when they review radio station mergers.

Given the number of broadcast media outlets available today, traditional concerns about how mergers affect viewpoint diversity are greatly mitigated. This is especially true because, in addition to traditional broadcast media outlets, various multichannel video programming services and online services over the Internet, as well as nonbroadcast media outlets like magazines and newspapers, are available in today's market.

In light of these facts, Mr. President, the FCC should not block sensible radio mergers or approve them only with additional, unwarranted terms and conditions attached.●

**JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS IN THE 105TH CONGRESS**

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, now that we have concluded the 1st session of the 105th Congress, I want to again focus the attention of the Senate and the American people on the glacial pace of Federal judicial confirmations during this session.

Mr. President, the reluctance of the Senate to confirm the President's nominees to the Federal bench is a carryover from the 2d session of the 104th Congress, during which the Republican-controlled Senate, in an unprecedented display of election-year inaction, confirmed only 17 district court nominees and no circuit court nominees.

This pattern of inaction has continued into the 105th Congress, during which the Senate has confirmed only 36 of the President's judicial nominees—7 circuit judges and 29 district court judges. Admittedly, there was some effort made in the waning days of the session to confirm judges, but the overall numbers remain highly disturbing and worthy of attention.

In the last 2 years, the Senate has confirmed 53 judicial nominees, while a total of 81 seats on the bench continue

The CBO staff contact is Christina Hawley Sadoti.

Sincerely,  
JUNE E. O'NEILL, Director.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

**S. 1417.—Hispanic Cultural Center Act of 1997**

S. 1417, the Hispanic Cultural Center Act of 1997, would require the Secretary of the Interior to make a grant to the state of New Mexico to pay for one-half of the costs of the design, construction, furnishing and equipping of a Center for Performing Arts within the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center. Based on the amounts S. 1417 would count toward the state share, the federal share of these costs is estimated at about \$18 million. However some funds have been appropriated for this purpose for the 1998 fiscal year: \$2.5 million in the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act and \$3 million in the Interior Appropriations Act. Because S. 1417 would not restrict this grant to the availability of appropriations, New Mexico would be entitled to receive the remaining costs even if no additional appropriations are made. Enactment of S. 1417 would therefore increase pay-as-you-go spending by about \$13 million between fiscal years 1999-2001, as shown in the following table.

to lie vacant, and 41 nominees await committee or floor consideration.

In other words, there are still more nominees pending in the Senate than were confirmed this year, and more than twice the number of nominees confirmed last year.

Compare the number of nominees confirmed thus far this year and in the 104th Congress to the number confirmed in the last two Democratically controlled Congresses, one of which featured a Republican President. In the 102d Congress, the Senate confirmed 124 Federal judges, while in the 103d Congress it confirmed 129 Federal judges. In the 104th Congress, the Republicans confirmed but 75 judges, while this year it confirmed 36. In other words, in the last 3 years, the Republican majority in the Senate has confirmed fewer Federal judges than the Democratically controlled Senate did in either the 102d or the 103d Congress.

I ask my colleagues to further compare the figures of the last 2 years with the number of judicial nominees confirmed by Democratically controlled Senates during years when a Republican White House faced a Democratic challenge—when, as in 1996, the party in control of the Senate had an incentive to delay confirmations, in the hopes that the Presidential election would effect a transfer of the White House to its party.