

The amendment is as follows:

On page 21, line 24, Insert the following after the semicolon: "of which \$750,000 is to conduct an independent and comprehensive management, operational, performance, and financial review of Yellowstone National Park:".

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, this amendment earmarks funds for a comprehensive financial study of the operations of the Yellowstone National Park. Given that this piece of Yellowstone Park lies in my own State of Montana, I am very familiar with the park and the issues that concern the Senator from Wyoming. I support this amendment and understand it has been cleared on both sides.

Basically what this amendment does, it gives a little extra money to look into the books and the financial situation at the park. We have heard some disparaging stories. The way we take care of those, as the saying goes, is to look into it. It is going to take a little money to do that.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, recently ABC ran a series of stories about the National Park Service and discussed the \$4.9 billion backlog of deferred maintenance nationwide in our National Park System. One segment mentioned that some operations and park programs may need to be curtailed or discontinued as a result of budget shortfalls at Yellowstone National Park.

To be absolutely fair, over the past few years both Senator BYRD and Senator BURNS have been very generous to the National Park Service and to Yellowstone in particular.

Yellowstone is the world's first national park, created in 1872, and one of the biggest. It stretches across volcanic plateaus in northwest Wyoming and into southern Montana and Idaho, and contains more than 2 million acres of geysers, lakes, waterfalls, forests, bison, bears, and tourists. But more than that, Yellowstone is very rich in cultural, historical and natural resources, and in fact, represents—in one part—the multiple facets of park operations and programs found in the individual 285 units of the System.

My amendment would use Yellowstone as a demonstration project for business transformation. The National Park Service depends upon several sources of revenue to sustain operations and modernize facilities, including but not limited to, appropriations, fee income and revenue from concessioners, lease holders and permittees. These funding sources need to be managed in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible to ensure improvement of services to the park visitor and for the protection of natural and cultural resources. Toward this end, I believe that improved state-of-the-art business practices need to be established in the National Park Service.

This amendment would require the Secretary of the Interior to contract for an independent and comprehensive

management, operational, performance, and financial review of Yellowstone National Park. As I have already stated Yellowstone National Park has a wide range of a natural and cultural resources, programs and visitor services and provides an optimal environment in which to identify and make recommendations for improved management and operational practices that can be proliferated throughout the National Park Service and transform management to provide cost-effective, efficient and responsive programs. I know, the lessons that we will learn from Yellowstone will have application to the rest of the units within the System. I would suggest that the eventual cost savings, redirection of expenditures, and cost efficiencies will more than pay for the cost of this study.

We all are aware that there is a backlog of maintenance, and Congress has attempted to address the situation. But, I have to say that throwing money at the problem does not guarantee that there will not be a deferred maintenance backlog ten years from now. Unfortunately, we have never systematically evaluated the management programs that contributed to the backlog in the first place.

I believe this is a compelling need to establish new and better modern business practices within the National Park Service. With the passage of this amendment we can take advantage of the expertise that the private business sector has to offer so that we can redirect funds to address the backlog where we can, and more importantly, ensure that measures are taken to prevent a re-occurrence of programs and policies which led to the backlog we face today. I believe we can achieve these goals while maintaining important park program and operations.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4529) was agreed to.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have nothing further to bring before the Senate at this time.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I see no one else seeking recognition. I would suggest we recess the Senate for the party caucuses.

Mr. REID. There is already an order in effect.

Mr. BURNS. I move we recess under the previous order.

Thereupon, at 12:36 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CLELAND).

#### HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5005) to establish the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Lieberman amendment No. 4471, in the nature of a substitute.

Thompson/Warner amendment No. 4513 (to amendment No. 4471), to strike title II, establishing the National Office for Combating Terrorism, and title III, developing the National Strategy for Combating Terrorism and Homeland Security Response for detection, prevention, protection, response, and recovery to counter terrorist threats.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I commend the chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator LIEBERMAN, for recognizing early on that a major government reorganization should be considered in light of the tragic events of September 11th and for his leadership in putting together a basic structure for a new Department of Homeland Security. I also praise President Bush for supporting the existing congressional effort to elevate the authority and the status of the Office of Homeland Security to a Cabinet level position that will be responsive to the needs of the American people.

As we approach the anniversary of September 11th, Congress has been diligently working to insure that America has a Department of Homeland Security that can be responsive to the challenges of the post September 11th world. The Senate has spent the past few months exploring the bureaucratic obstacles that limited our capacity to identify and prevent the terrorist attacks of September 11th. We have considered in hearings whether the steps that have been taken to advance our country's safety and security since September 11 have been effective, and whether they adequately protect our most fundamental civil liberties.

The Congress has always responded to the challenge to protect this nation against any and all threats, including terrorism. I am committed to ensuring that as we build this new agency, we do so in manner that guarantees that basic fundamental rights are not lost or forgotten in a rush to be seen as doing something.

As the Senate moves forward in considering this new government structure, I have been guided by two simple questions: Will this reorganization make all of us safer? And will it preserve our liberties as Americans? That inquiry should continue to guide our consideration for a Department of Homeland Security.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m. having arrived, the Senate stands in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.