

Ben Nighthorse Campbell  
Chairman - Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
Oversight Hearing on the FY2004 Budget Request  
February 26, 2003

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Now the Committee will turn to the first of two Committee Oversight Hearings on the President's Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Request for Indian Programs.

As we all now know, our nation is on the verge of a major conflict in Iraq. The effort has costed and will cost billions of dollars.

We are also engaged in a coast to coast effort to protect our homeland.

The President's FY2004 Budget reflects these realities and at the same time provides for modest increases in a number of Indian accounts.

The Interior Department's budget is pegged at \$10.7 billion, with more than a quarter of the entire department's budget dedicated to Indian accounts including \$2.314 billion for the BIA, and \$275 million for the Special Trustee.

The Indian Health Service account would receive \$2.89 billion, an increase of \$68 million over FY2003.

I will not recite the litany of all the accounts and all the dollar figures as we will hear today from the major Indian organizations.

Next week we will hear from the Federal Departments and Agencies on the Budget Request.

I will be paying particular attention to the homeland security budget and the Committee will be most interested in seeing the degree to which it involves tribal governments, law enforcement, and medical personnel in our security efforts.

I will submit the rest of my statement for the Record.