

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is dealing with an earmark for \$140,000 for the Wetzel County Courthouse in New Martinsville, West Virginia. Now, Mr. Chairman, I actually looked up on a Web site to see the Wetzel County Courthouse, and it is a building that was built someti... Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is dealing with an earmark for \$140,000 for the Wetzel County Courthouse in New Martinsville, West Virginia.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I actually looked up on a Web site to see the Wetzel County Courthouse, and it is a building that was built sometime between 1900 and 1902, and it looks like a very fine historic building. I actually am personally into historic preservation. I personally support, through charitable contributions, the preservation of various historic buildings around California, actually, and around the Nation.

I believe that we ought to keep our historic buildings and keep them up and appreciate them and treasure that history that we, as a fairly young country, are just beginning to build. So that's not why I am proposing to strike this earmark from this bill.

It's not that this isn't a historic building; it clearly is. It's not that perhaps it requires some renovation; I don't know, but perhaps it does. But the question is, is this really the sort of thing upon which we should be spending our scarce Federal tax dollars?

Let me point out again that this is a county courthouse. It's not a Federal courthouse; it is a county courthouse in West Virginia. Now, I'm sure that there are taxes, property taxes, whatever, in that county, and perhaps those tax dollars, if the local magistrates felt it was appropriate, could be used for this, or perhaps city dollars in that city or that area, or perhaps State dollars, or perhaps charitable dollars, a preservation society is set up or becomes set up, or whatever, to support this courthouse.

But it just seems completely inappropriate to me, Mr. Chairman, that we are spending scarce Federal dollars on this sort of thing. Now, I have a county courthouse in my county; it was built around the same time. It's old also. I'm sure we could use \$140,000 for it. I'm sure we could use \$140,000 for any number of county courthouses that are old and historic across this country. Are we going to fund them all? Is it the Federal taxpayers' responsibility to restore them all or to

make some contribution to them all? I really don't think so.

And it's not, as I say, that perhaps this isn't a need, but I just don't think it's appropriate to spend Federal tax dollars on this sort of very local objective and local project that has no Federal nexus.

Now, my friends on the other side of the aisle spent a lot of time the last few days talking about PAYGO. But one of the things to point out is that this bill is not subject, the entire bill basically, all of the spending in the budget is not subject to PAYGO because there is a 4.5 percent increase in total spending in this appropriations bill that we're debating tonight. And there is no offset for that 4.5 percent. There is no other spending that is reduced by 4.5 percent. So every dollar we spend on this bill tonight is a dollar that adds to the deficit. Every single dollar contributes to further raiding the Social Security surplus.

So the question is, is this \$140,000 that we believe we should increase the Federal deficit by \$140,000 for this courthouse, should we raid the Social Security surplus by an additional \$140,000 for this courthouse, or should we not spend the taxpayers' money on something like this local project?

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.