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**Subject:** Conversation with Richard Hertling

Richard Hertling, Senate Government Affairs Committee staff, 224-4751, returned my call this afternoon. The following are the highlights of the conversation:1. He doesn't think Government Affairs will have to even get to act on S. 844, the authorization bill. As Moll had also described, Hertling said the easiest thing on the authorization bill is for it to be "held at the desk" on the Senate floor after the House bill is passed and comes over to the Senate. He suggested that Specter and Glenn would be the likely candidates to move the bill on the Senate floor.2. The really best hope, as we know, is if the Treasury, Postal appropriations bill that comes over from the House containing the necessary authorization language. If the Senate Appropriations Committee's Treasury Subcommittee inquired of the Government Affairs staff about the funding, Hertling is assuming that Thompson will be okay with it and would write as such to the Appropriations Committee.3. Similarly, if the House authorization bill is moving by itself and is held at the desk in the Senate, Thompson would be briefed and the assumption is that he would okay the bill moving on the Senate floor.4. He was surprised that Glenn was not on S. 844.5. He reiterated that he did not anticipate any problems.

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