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Mr. Speaker, last week, we were told that Big Bird was a billionaire and did not need Federal support. Not true on either account.

The Sesame Street Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization, supports children's activities in 120 countries around the world for less than \$100 million a year. Yet, Sesame Street, now in its 36th season, gets only \$17.5 million, about 10 percent of that, from Federal sources.

The Federal money helped make it possible for stations to operate and to buy the programming.

The bottom line is, Big Bird is not a billionaire, and taking away the Federal money, he would still be here, but it would diminish the program and make it harder or impossible for kids to watch him on local, free, noncommercial public television, especially in small cities and rural communities.

I urge my colleagues to visit their local stations during the summer break and find out the truth about Big Bird.