

from all of their grantees, bring them together, and every year send their reports to the Bureau of the Census, which would then, in turn, pull all of these together to constitute a national database of political activities maintained under the force of Federal law by the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, why anyone that is interested in a smaller Government, much less in civil liberties, much less in the protections of the first amendment to the United States Constitution, would consider for a second endorsing this chilling Orwellian notion is beyond me, but it was stuck, buried, in the end of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill that will be before the House shortly.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will take just a few minutes to read through this provision and understand exactly what it is going to mean. It is going to mean a lot in the lives of most Americans. It is an appalling exercise of overreach by the Federal Government. We should support the amendment that I will offer on the floor to strike it from the bill.

A FOND FAREWELL TO KEITH JEWELL

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in bidding a fond farewell to a good friend and outstanding public servant, Keith Jewell, upon his last day as Director of House Photography.

I know Keith not only from his day to day duties coordinating our House photographers, but also through his selfless devotion over the years on many of our foreign missions. Keith often shared our hardships as he kept an official photographic record of our responsibilities.

A visit to Keith's office in the Rayburn Building is a virtual trip through the history of the past 29 years. Displayed on the walls is Keith's photographic work as it appears in our major newsmagazines: a review of the Presidential addresses, the Joint Sessions, and the historic moments in this Chamber and on the Hill since the days of Lyndon Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, I join with our colleagues in wishing Keith success in all of his future endeavors, and in wishing Keith, his wife Lorene, his stepsons and his grandchildren many many retirement years of good health and happiness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

INVESTIGATION OF THE DEATH OF WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL, VINCE FOSTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled to read last week a statement from Speaker GINGRICH suggesting that House Counsel Vince Foster was murdered, coupled with Mr. GINGRICH's statement that he plans to do nothing at all about that. In other words, the Speaker apparently plans to suggest to the American people that an official in the White House was murdered, despite the fact that several investigations involving professional criminologists and others, forensic experts, have concluded that he was, tragically, a suicide.

Mr. GINGRICH chooses to call that into question but then do nothing about it. Remember that Mr. GINGRICH has a good deal of influence over the agenda of this House, including the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services. The House Committee will be having hearings on the Whitewater matters. The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is having hearings on Whitewater. The Republican party apparently plans to have hearings about what happened before Mr. Foster, sadly, killed himself; they plan to have hearings about what happened after Mr. Foster killed himself, and they are having those now; but they will not have any hearings into that question. Why? Because everyone who has looked at it has concluded, without question, that Mr. Foster was a suicide because of the enormous pressures he was under.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. GINGRICH chooses to ignore that overwhelming evidence and to suggest that he was murdered, but he is very careful to make it clear that he will do nothing about it. In other words, he will leave that terribly destabilizing, awful suggestion there, with its unstated implications of who was responsible. Despite the fact that he has control over the investigatory bodies of this House, he will not have them look into it because he does not want to know the truth.

Mr. Speaker, it has, unfortunately, become part of the right wing paranoia that circulates in this country to state, in defiance of the clear facts and pattern, that Mr. Foster was murdered. Mr. Foster's suicide has been investigated by two Republican independent counsel, first Mr. Fiske and now Mr. Starr. It has been investigated by police, by the FBI, by a whole range of officials. Overwhelmingly, everyone has concluded, tragically, that he committed suicide. The Speaker decides to ignore that, to reinforce one of the worst, craziest, most paranoid rumors now circulating and poisoning the American political atmosphere, but is careful to leave it at a suggestion. He is careful to avoid any forum in which

that outrageous suggestion of his could be proven.

What this shows, Mr. Speaker, is, unfortunately, the extent to which the right wing, in its most extremist form, demands increasing tribute from the Republican party leadership. We see it in public policy on the floor of this House and we see it in their rhetoric. The Speaker apparently feels compelled to give credence to one of the most contemptible, vicious, and inaccurate stories now circulating in American politics. It is an effort by the right wing to use the tragic suicide of a very decent man under great pressure for political purposes.

Mr. Speaker, where is the Speaker of the House? Does he exercise leadership? I know Chairman D'AMATO, former chairman of the Senate committee, has said, yes, it was a suicide. He stipulates to that. That is the responsible position. The Speaker is not willing to do that. The Speaker will, instead, fan one of the most irresponsible flames that threatens now to consume civility in the American political discourse.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the need of the Republican leadership to keep happy those on the right wing who have been their most active troops, but can there not be a more decent way to do it? Must there be an unfortunate, unjustified, terrible effort to play with the facts involving this man's life? Does the Speaker really, genuinely believe this was a murder? No one, even the Speaker and even the people on the right are suggesting it was an act of God. The man was shot by his own hand. It is either murder or suicide. If the Speaker really believes it is murder, then where does he get the authority not to investigate it?

Mr. Speaker, anyone who seriously believes a White House Counsel may have been murdered for political purposes, who does not use his or her authority to look into it, seems to me to be guilty of a dereliction of duty. What we are clearly talking about, then, is not a serious effort to get to the bottom of what would be a terrible crime. It is the most discouraging example of right wing influence in the Republican party that I have seen, and I have, unfortunately, seen many.

FAREWELL TO KEITH JEWELL

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I simply wanted to add my voice to the gentleman from New York in saying that we will miss Keith Jewell as the House photographer very much. I know that all of us have had experience in his work. He has served this House and its membership loyally and with great effectiveness and efficiency, and, above it all, he has been a fine human being, a wonderful human being to be around.

Mr. Speaker, all of us together wish him and his family well as he now

moves into retirement and into a new phase of his career. We are sorry he is leaving but we wish him very, very well.

THE ILLINOIS LAND CONSERVATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. WELLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 714, the Illinois Land Conservation Act, with overwhelming bipartisan support. While a similar bill passed the House last session, time was short and the Senate did not have time to act on the bill. I am pleased we were able to move the bill through the House and I am working with my Senators to ensure that the legislation moves quickly through the other body with bipartisan support.

I would like to take a minute to speak briefly about the importance of this legislation. This bipartisan measure is supported by virtually the entire Illinois delegation, the Governor of Illinois Jim Edgar, a large number of veterans, environment and conservation organizations, business and labor, private citizens and a broad coalition of groups interested in making this project a reality. H.R. 714 serves as a model for communities looking at future use for closed and surplus military facilities.

In April 1993, the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant was declared excess Federal property. Congressman George Sangmeister appointed a citizens planning commission that developed a reuse plan, which is encompassed in my legislation. This innovative land use plan could very well be seen as a model for converting base closures into peacetime uses. It will create the largest national tallgrass prairie east of the Mississippi, and will have enormous environmental, economic, and educational benefits to offer for many years to come. In our increasingly urbanized society, it is important to take note of the opportunity we have to preserve such a large tract of land for wildlife habitat and prairieland preservation, and also to incorporate a national cemetery to honor those veterans who have served their country, and to improve the economy and create jobs.

The largest portion of the arsenal property, 19,000 acres, will be transferred to the National Forest Service for creation of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. This is very crucial to a State that once had more than 43,000 square miles of prairieland, most of which has now been developed into towns and cities. Over 6 million people live within 45 miles of the land. Trails, camping, wildlife watching and other recreational activities are planned. The proposed prairieland is home to many species of birds and animals that are on both Federal and State endangered and threatened lists. Among these are the Upland Sandpiper, the

Marsh Yellow Crest, and numerous species of fish, insects and plant life.

The plan also includes a veterans cemetery which will occupy close to 1,000 acres on the arsenal property. This cemetery, which will be one of the largest in the United States, will serve more than a million veterans and their families within a 75-mile radius. The site of the cemetery, known as Hoff Woods, is a beautiful and tranquil setting of forests and rolling hills; a perfect location for a nation for a national cemetery.

The plan also includes two sites, a total of 3,000 acres, to be used for economic development. These two sites are seen as ideal for job creation, and many manufacturing companies would find sites like these well suited to their needs. Not only is the land equipped for economic development, but there are a series of water wells and pumping stations with the capacity to pump up to 77 million gallons of water each day. This portion of the redevelopment plan is very important to the surrounding communities. This use of the land will put many local men and women to work and stimulate the economy. The Illinois General Assembly has already created the Joliet Arsenal Economic Development Authority to effectively implement this plan.

This bill will also benefit the American taxpayer. Upon receiving the land, the USDA plans to sell surplus assets such as railway equipment and steel from the arsenal property. The Congressional Budget Office estimates a result of asset sale receipts totaling \$3.5 million over fiscal years 1996 and 1997. Agricultural leases on the property currently bring in about \$1.1 million in receipts annually. Also, USDA expects to collect annual user fees of about \$3 million from visitors to the new Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. In sum, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 714 would decrease outlays by about \$1 million in 1996, \$1 million in 1997, and \$2 million in 1998 for a total savings of \$4 million over the next 3 years.

The hard work and commitment of many people went into the success of this bill. Of course, I would like to thank former Congressman George Sangmeister, who initiated this process. I would also like to thank the Governor of Illinois Jim Edgar, and my fellow Illinois colleagues who have supported this concept plan. Special thanks go out to Fran Harty and Brent Manning of the Illinois Department of Conservation, Jerry Adelman and the Openlands Project, John Turner of the Conservation Fund, Ruth Fitzgerald of the Will County Center for Economic Development, Don Walden the head of my veterans advisory committee, and Lt. Col. Alan Kruse former Commander of the Joliet Arsenal. Of course, I also extend my gratitude to Chairmen PAT ROBERTS, BUD SHUSTER, TOM BLILEY, and FLOYD SPENCE; and to the majority whip TOM DELAY, and majority leader DICK ARMEY for their assistance in

moving this bill through the House in a timely fashion.

I am very pleased with the success of everyone's bipartisan efforts. The hard work and commitment by all involved demonstrates what can happen when people work together to make a difference.

The plan approved by the House yesterday is a win-win-win for taxpayers, veterans, conservation, and working families.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a Chicago Tribune article regarding the legislation to convert the former Joliet Arsenal.

[From the Chicago Tribune, July 16, 1995]

A CRITICAL MOMENT FOR JOLIET ARSENAL

Legislation to convert the former Joliet Arsenal to peacetime uses is a congressman's dream: It offers so much good in so many ways—for generations to come—that it is almost impossible to oppose.

That's why it has enjoyed such broad-based and remarkably bipartisan support so far, from citizens, business people, preservation groups and local officials to the Illinois General Assembly, Gov. Jim Edgar, the Clinton administration and U.S. representatives and senators on both sides of the aisle.

It has been moving efficiently through Congress, but now it faces another critical hurdle with the House Agriculture Committee—which holds lead jurisdiction on the legislation—about to take it up for recommendation to the full House. If the committee approves—and it is strongly urged to do so—the plan could have final approval by the August break.

The legislation almost made it through the last Congress, until last-minute technical mischief by U.S. Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) stalled it. It was a blow to retired U.S. Rep. George Sangmeister (D-Ill.), who spearheaded the arsenal-conversion movement. His successor, U.S. Rep. Jerry Weller (R-Ill.), resurrected it with the pledge to make it his top legislative priority.

That he has done, and the new version of the legislation may be even better than the old, clearing potential stumbling blocks, providing a more detailed transfer procedure and adding some additional benefits—including tapping the arsenal's vast water supply for development and for nearby communities.

A less comprehensive Senate version would have to be reconciled, but U.S. Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) is leading cooperation toward that end.

The genius of the concept is its provision for mixed use, a model for this type of conversion.

Of the 23,500 acres, almost 1,000 would be set aside for a new veterans' cemetery, the largest in the system and one desperately needed in the Midwest.

Will County would get more than 400 acres for a landfill, with provision to give the Army space for non-hazardous waste from its arsenal cleanup.

Some 3,000 acres would be set aside for industrial development under a state authority, generating both jobs and new tax revenue for local communities.

And the centerpiece, of course, would be the transfer of 19,000 acres to the U.S. Forest Service to create the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, the largest of its kind east of the Mississippi—an oasis for human recreation and wildlife prosperity in reach of some 8 million people in a 60-mile radius.

For all this, the Congressional Budget Office also estimates that transfer of the arsenal could save the federal government \$4 million over 3 years.