

the Library intends to consolidate the storage of its audio-visual collection, specifically its acetate film collection. However, the facility at Culpeper cannot currently house the nitrate-based film collection. While I will not object to passage of this legislation, I am concerned by both the manner in which the Library presented this issue to Congress and by a number of precedent-setting issues this gift raises which have not been fully aired.

It is my understanding that the Library first identified the Culpeper property as a potential site for storage of a portion of its film collection several years ago. And yet, this legislation before us today was shared with my office only last week, and was introduced in the House and Senate over the weekend. While it is not unusual this time of year to see legislation flying past the Congress on its way to the White House for signature, this measure raises a number of concerns that should, and could, have been fully debated by those who ultimately will be responsible to the taxpayer for the cost of its maintenance and upkeep in the years to come.

First, and most importantly, is the issue of whether the government, particularly the Library, should be in the business of acquiring real estate. It is rather ironic that this is being proposed at a time when the leadership in the Congress is calling for privatization of many legislative branch functions and the sale of certain legislative branch properties. It is particularly true of this property which includes about 41 acres, but insufficient buildings and improvements to house all of the Library's audiovisual collection. I don't want to assume what the Library plans to do with all this property, but I got a pretty good idea by reading the study the Library commissioned from Abacus Technology Corporation.

The current buildings on the Culpeper property can house only the acetate film collection. In order to consolidate the nitrate film collection at the Culpeper site, the Abacus study recommends constructing new buildings to house the nitrate collection. And how much would such facilities cost? Over \$16 million over the next 4 years. But a hefty building and expansion program is not all that is planned for these 41 acres. The Abacus study describes the Library's vision with regard to this audiovisual center as offering, subject to the approval of Congress, a cost-effective conservation service for other libraries and archives. Whether this will require additional buildings or is included in the Abacus cost estimates already is not disclosed.

A second concern that this issue raises is the ultimate cost to the taxpayer of accepting this gift. According to the Abacus study, the total cost for renovating, maintaining and expanding the Culpeper property over the 25 year life cycle of the facility is \$47 million. Other alternatives identified by Abacus and the Library range from about \$54

million to \$86 million. However, the Abacus study does not include cost estimates for the Architect of the Capitol for the on-going maintenance and repair of the 41 acres of grounds and buildings that would now be owned by the government.

Thirdly, as currently structured, it is not clear how this property and facilities will be managed. By statute, the Architect of the Capitol is responsible for only the structural work on buildings and grounds of Library property, including the maintenance and care of the grounds and certain mechanical equipment. Since this site is over 70 miles away from Washington, it may require that the Architect physically locate maintenance personnel there. But the Architect will not manage these 41 acres and buildings—that will now be the responsibility of the Library—hardly a task they have much experience with. Moreover, as my colleagues know, the Library has its own security force. Presumably, this facility will also need to be secure. However, in recent years, there have been discussions about the possibility of transferring certain exterior security functions of the Library security force to the Capitol Police. I'm not sure I want our Capitol police responsible for taking care of the security of 41 acres in Culpeper.

I appreciate the pressure the Librarian feels to raise private funds to provide core Library functions. However, any gift that the Librarian solicits ultimately becomes the responsibility of the American taxpayers. Before we saddle them with the maintenance, upkeep, and overhead of additional federal buildings and prime real estate, there should be an opportunity to fully air these issues. Changes I sought in this legislation will do that, even if after the fact.

Being from Kentucky, I know better than to look a gift horse in the mouth. But being from west Kentucky, which is hog country, I also know a pig-in-a-poke when I see it. The Library may not be asking the American taxpayers to accept a pig-in-a-poke, but with all the unanswered questions, this Culpeper property is pretty darn close to it. I'll be sticking close to the farm over the next year, and as provided by this legislation, will be looking for answers to these questions before approving improvements and expansions on this gift.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read the third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The bill (H.R. 2979) was read the third time, and passed.

# EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATIVE TO GERMAN REPARATIONS TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 138, S. Con. Res. 39.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 39) expressing the sense of the Congress that the German government should expand and simplify its reparations system, provide reparations to Holocaust survivors in Eastern and Central Europe, and set up a fund to help cover the medical expenses of Holocaust survivors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, the German Government has long recognized its moral obligation to assist the survivors of the Holocaust. The landmark reparations agreements of the early 1950's between the West German Government and Jewish groups were predicated on this simple premise. Yet, as years go by, it has become increasingly apparent that a large number of survivors, particularly those living in Eastern and Central Europe, were excluded from these agreements and are now being denied assistance on the flimsiest of technical grounds. As a result, in July Senators GRAHAM, HATCH, and DODD joined me in introducing Senate Concurrent Resolution 39. I am pleased that the Senate will take up this important issue today.

The need for such legislation was reinforced only last week. On November 5, Judge Heinz Sonnenberger in Germany upheld just 1 of 22 claims made by a group of Jewish women seeking payment for their work as slave laborers at Auschwitz. The other claims were dismissed by the judge on the grounds that the women had already received compensation under Germany's Federal Compensation Law. This decision represents the German Government's intractable attitude toward survivors of Nazi slave labor, however, it also presents a small window of hope for the survivors of slave labor who until now have been denied compensation by the German Government.

The German Government has continually dealt with the survivors of Nazi persecution in a heartless, bureaucratic manner, basing its decisions on technical questions and eschewing a moral obligation to aid all survivors regardless of past compensation, current financial status, or amount of pain suffered. This practice stands in sharp contrast to the generous disability pensions paid by the German Government to former members of the Waffen-SS and their families. Until

last year, when the German Supreme Court ruled that cases of compensation for slave labor could be taken up by the German courts, survivors of slave labor had been told that they should address their claims to the companies that used slave labor and not the German Government. Often companies had already paid a lump sum toward compensation and refused to hear further claims, while other companies, which had never paid claims, refused to pay them altogether. After 50 years of avoidance, it is time for the German Government to take the opportunity this ruling provides and address the issue of compensation to slave laborers head on.

Judge Sonnenberger's ruling is the first time that a German court has awarded compensation to a survivor of slave labor to be paid by the German Government. The possibility that this ruling is a precedent may be a bright spot in this otherwise regrettable decision. Perhaps other survivors of slave labor, who have never received compensation from the German Government, will be emboldened by this ruling and bring their own cases forward. This progress is tempered by the rejection of the other 21 claims. In this regard, Judge Sonnenberger's decision carries on the German Government's practice of overlooking humanitarian considerations when judging compensation claims made by the survivors of Nazi persecution.

In order to encourage a change in the German Government's position, Senate Concurrent Resolution 39 urges the German Government to expand and simplify its reparations system, to provide reparations to survivors in Eastern and Central Europe, and to set up a fund to help cover the medical expenses of Holocaust survivors. Although half a century has passed since the end of World War II, it is important to remember how many chapters opened by the devastating war remain unfinished. I hope this action will help bring the issue of reparations for survivors of Nazi persecution the fore, and encourage the German Government to make appropriate changes so that the elderly survivors of the Holocaust receive appropriate reparations.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 39) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 39

Whereas the annihilation of 6,000,000 European Jews during the Holocaust and the murder of millions of others by the Nazi German state constitutes one of the most tragic episodes in the history of man's inhumanity to man;

Whereas there are more than 125,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States and approximately 500,000 living around the world;

Whereas aging Holocaust survivors throughout the world are still suffering from permanent injuries suffered at the hands of the Nazis, and many are unable to afford critically needed medical care;

Whereas, while the German Government has attempted to address the needs of Holocaust survivors, many are excluded from reparations because of onerous eligibility requirements imposed by the German Government;

Whereas the German Government often rejects Holocaust survivors' claims on the grounds that the survivor did not present the claim correctly or in a timely manner, that the survivor cannot demonstrate to the Government's satisfaction that a particular illness or medical condition is the direct consequence of persecution in a Nazi-created ghetto or concentration camp, or that the survivor is not considered sufficiently destitute;

Whereas tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors in the former Soviet Union and other formerly Communist countries in Eastern and Central Europe have never received reparations from Germany and a smaller number has received a token amount;

Whereas, after more than 50 years, hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors continue to be denied justice and compensation from the German Government;

Whereas the German Government pays generous disability pensions to veterans of the Nazi armed forces, including non-German veterans of the Waffen-SS;

Whereas in 1996 the German Government paid \$7,700,000,000 in such pensions to 1,100,000 veterans, including 3,000 veterans and their dependents now living in the United States;

Whereas such pensions are a veteran's benefit provided over and above the full health coverage that all German citizens, including veterans of the Waffen-SS, receive from their government; and

Whereas it is abhorrent that Holocaust survivors should live out their remaining years in conditions worse than those enjoyed by the surviving former Nazis who persecuted them: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*

(1) the German Government should expand and simplify its system of reparations so that all Holocaust survivors can receive reparations, regardless of their nationality, length or place of internment, or current financial situation;

(2) the German Government should provide reparations to Holocaust survivors in the former Soviet Union and other former Communist countries in Eastern and Central Europe;

(3) the German Government should fulfill its responsibilities to victims of the Holocaust and immediately set up a comprehensive medical fund to cover the medical expenses of all Holocaust survivors worldwide; and

(4) the German Government should help restore the dignity of Holocaust survivors by paying them sufficient reparations to ensure that no Holocaust survivor be forced by poverty to live in conditions worse than those generally enjoyed by the surviving former Nazis who persecuted them.

PROVIDING FOR A CENTER FOR HISTORICALLY BLACK HERITAGE WITHIN FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 1559, introduced earlier today by Senators MACK and GRAHAM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1559) to provide for the design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of a Center for Historically Black Heritage within Florida A&M University.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and my friend Senator MACK to introduce legislation authorizing the expansion of the Black Archives Research Center and Museum at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida.

This legislation is significant not only to the Florida A&M but to national heritage. Since 1977, the Black Archives at FAMU has been charged with collecting all materials reflecting the African-American presence and participation regionally, nationally and internationally.

The Black Archives Research Center and Museum is the largest repository of African-American history in the Southeast.

In 1997, Time magazine and Princeton Review chose Florida A&M University as the college of the year. This recognition is well deserved. Since 1992, Florida A&M University has vied with Harvard in enrolling the most National Achievement Scholars. (Florida A&M leading in 1992 and 1995 and Harvard in 1993 and 1994.)

The Black Archives includes over 500,000 artifacts, manuscripts, art works and oral history tapes pre-dating the Civil War, through the early days of the civil rights movement to today.

Unfortunately, this fine center finds itself in disrepair.

The bill Senator MACK and I introduce today would authorize the design, and construction of a facility to better house these priceless documents for future generations.

Our bill would stipulate that the State of Florida match the Federal investment dollar for dollar, making it truly a Federal-State partnership.

Specifically, our bill would make the Black Archives Research Center and Museum eligible for up to \$3.8 million in Federal funding beginning in 1998 and any succeeding years.

I ask unanimous consent that material relating to the Black Archives Research Center and Museum be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: