

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:

The BARCM is located in the oldest building on the campus of Florida A&M University. The building was completed in 1907, with the assistance of a \$10,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie. This building is still standing and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The purpose of the Black Archives was set forth in 1971 in an act of the Florida legislature that mandated the establishment of a repository to "serve the state by collecting and preserving source materials on or about Black Americans from the earliest beginnings to the present."

The BARCM was formally dedicated and officially opened in 1977. Part of its scholarly and cultural responsibility is the collection of any materials reflecting the Black presence and participation in local, regional, national and international history. The BARCM has the largest repository of African American history and artifacts in the southeast including over 500,000 artifacts, manuscripts, art work, and oral history tapes, as well as meeting and research rooms and a mobile touring museum.

The Black Archives Research Center and Museum (BARCM) is presently 3000 square feet. It is planned that the interior of the present building be restored to its original appearance. True to the Carnegie-style architectural design, the building can easily be divided into four wings; two on the first floor and two on the second floor. The building which was originally the campus library and post office, would be used solely as museum space and would house permanent collections as well as traveling or touring exhibits. As such, there would only be a need for one staff person on site, a tour guide or docent. There is also potential for housing a museum store and gift shop at this location. This enterprise could possibly generate revenues toward the ongoing support and maintenance of the building. The basement of the Carnegie building would be used for an educational "Underground Railroad" for grades K-12.

With proper funding, the Carnegie building would be "connected" (via catwalk or breezeway) to the larger 33,000 square foot space that is proposed to be built directly behind it. The larger 33,000 square foot space would be used as a research library, an archives, and as much-needed storage space. In addition, work space and preservation laboratory would be housed on the sub-level. While the Carnegie building would be used for major exhibitions and educational programs, the larger and newer space would be designated almost solely for serious study and analysis of the various collections. Tours would be prohibited in the larger space.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read the third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1559) was deemed read the third time, and passed, as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTER FOR REGIONAL BLACK CULTURE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Currently 500,000 historically important artifacts of the Civil War era and the early days of the civil rights movement in the Southeast region of the United States are housed at Florida A&M University.

(2) To preserve this large repository of African-American history and artifacts it is appropriate that the Federal Government share in the cost of construction of this national repository for culture and history.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(1) CENTER.—The term "Center" means the Center for Historically Black Heritage at Florida A&M University.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Interior acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(c) CONSTRUCTION OF CENTER.—The Secretary may award a grant to the State of Florida to pay for the Federal share of the cost, design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the Center at Florida A&M University.

(d) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant awarded under subsection (c), Florida A&M University, shall submit to the Secretary a proposal.

(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share described in subsection (c) shall be 50 percent.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Interior to carry out this section a total of \$3,800,000 for fiscal year 1998 and any succeeding fiscal years. Funds appropriated pursuant to the authority of the preceding sentence shall remain available until expended.

OCEANS ACT OF 1997

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 288, S. 1213.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

A bill (S. 1213) to establish a National Ocean Council, a Commission on Ocean Policy, and for other purposes.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic:

So as to make the bill read:

S. 1213

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Oceans Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS; PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Covering more than two-thirds of the Earth's surface, the oceans and Great Lakes play a critical role in the global water cycle and in regulating climate, sustain a large part of Earth's biodiversity, provide an important source of food and a wealth of other natural products, act as a frontier to scientific exploration, are critical to national security, and provide a vital means of transportation. The coasts, transition between land and open ocean, are regions of remarkably high biological productivity, contribute more than 30 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, and are of considerable importance for recreation, waste disposal, and mineral exploration.

(2) Ocean and coastal resources are susceptible to change as a direct and indirect result of human activities, and such changes can significantly impact the ability of the oceans and Great Lakes to provide the benefits upon which the Nation depends. Changes in ocean and coastal processes could affect global climate patterns, marine productivity and biodiversity, environmental quality, national security, economic competitiveness, availability of energy, vulnerability to natural hazards, and transportation safety and efficiency.

(3) Ocean and coastal resources are not infinite, and human pressure on them is increasing. One half of the Nation's population lives within 50 miles of the coast, ocean and coastal resources once considered inexhaustible are now threatened with depletion, and if population trends continue as expected, pressure on and conflicting demands for ocean and coastal resources will increase further as will vulnerability to coastal hazards.

(4) Marine technologies hold tremendous promise for expanding the range and increasing the utility of products from the oceans and Great Lakes, improving the stewardship of ocean and coastal resources, and contributing to business and manufacturing innovations and the creation of new jobs.

(5) Marine research has uncovered the link between oceanic and atmospheric processes and improved understanding of world climate patterns and forecasts. Important new advances, including availability of military technology, have made feasible the exploration of large areas of the ocean which were inaccessible several years ago. In designating 1998 as "The Year of the Ocean", the United Nations highlights the value of increasing our knowledge of the oceans.

(6) It has been 30 years since the Commission on Marine Science, Engineering, and Resources (known as the Stratton Commission) conducted a comprehensive examination of ocean and coastal activities that led to enactment of major legislation and the establishment of key oceanic and atmospheric institutions.

(7) A review of existing activities is essential to respond to the changes that have occurred over the past three decades and to develop an effective new policy for the twenty-first century to conserve and use sustainable ocean and coastal resources, protect the marine environment, explore ocean frontiers, protect human safety, and create marine technologies and economic opportunities.

(8) While significant Federal ocean and coastal programs are underway, those programs would benefit from a coherent national ocean and coastal policy that reflects the need for cost-effective allocation of fiscal resources, improved interagency coordination, and strengthened partnerships with State, private, and international entities engaged in ocean and coastal activities.

(b) PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES.—The purpose of this Act is to develop and maintain a coordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national policy with respect to ocean and coastal activities that will assist the Nation in meeting the following objectives:

(1) The protection of life and property against natural and manmade hazards.

(2) Responsible stewardship, including use, of fishery resources and other ocean and coastal resources.

(3) The protection of the marine environment and prevention of marine pollution.

(4) The enhancement of marine-related commerce, transportation, and national security, and the resolution of conflicts among users of the marine environment.

(5) The expansion of human knowledge of the marine environment including the role of