

that balancing the budget is more important than keeping our young people afloat, and going to college. They've been really selfish in that.

Congressman Sanders: Let me ask you another question. We have heard from a number of the panelists today a great concern, and it was interesting to see so many people stand up, and say, "Yes, we are going to need help from the government or from some other source in order to go to college." Given that reality, is it your judgment that the students themselves have been effective politically in fighting for more federal aid to education. Have they done as good job in making their concerns known to their elected officials?

Answer: I think a lot of them are not really at an age to make an impact, because of their age, they're not old enough to vote, and really vote for the candidates that will help raise the financial aid. President Clinton is trying the best he can, but with the Congress being so closed-minded in some respects, we don't really have a say.

SUPPORT FOR HIA DATABASE CENTER

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during our debate on H.R. 3517, the Military Construction Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1997, to express my strong support for the establishment of a site database center at the Harrisburg International Airport (HIA), in Middletown, PA. Located on the immediate and surrounding grounds of HIA (the former Olmsted Air Force Base) is a Superfund Site, designated in 1984, the existence of which is due directly to the activities that took place during the operation of Olmsted Air Force Base from 1917 to 1967. For the last 13 years, an intense effort has been undertaken at the local, State and Federal level to determine the nature of the hazardous waste left by the Air Force when it closed Olmsted, the origins and locations of its spread, and remediation of the waste, all within the dictates of the Superfund designation and with the goal of getting HIA deleted off the Superfund list by the end of this year.

My involvement with the HIA Superfund Site has been since 1983 when it was thought, erroneously we now know, that an inclusion on the Superfund list would be the fastest, cheapest and best way to clean up the waste left by the Air Force. How wrong we were in that thinking is another, longer story. But, in the years since HIA was put on the Superfund list, the Air Force, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (the current owner of the land), local, regional and private entities, our late U.S. Senator John Heinz, former Senator Wofford, current Senators SPECTER and SANTORUM, and this Member of Congress (along with many others too numerous to mention at this time) have sought to make the cleanup at HIA a model site cleanup program for other Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) across the United States to emulate.

As part of the cleanup effort, funds were dedicated in several Defense Appropriations bills to provide for a full cleanup of the site. All parties have understood that full cleanup

meant that following Superfund delisting the land in question should be available for public and private development. Throughout the cleanup process, volumes of data have been collected from the several environmental investigations conducted for the final remedy and delisting of the site. A crucial part of the current delisting effort and any post-delisting development that occurs is the interpretation and management of this data. Remediation cannot occur under Superfund without the requisite interpretations of site data. Post-Superfund developers must know what happened on the site, and any future environmental questions that arise at HIA must refer back to the data from the current cleanup effort. When all the current participants have left the site, the only reliable reference source will be a database.

Unfortunately, as we near the end of the long march to delisting, a serious bar to full cleanup has arisen: the maintenance of a useful site database. The Air Force, through the Army Corps of Engineers, refuses to either maintain, or pay for the maintenance of, a site database. The Air Force is wrong in their refusal. From the very beginning, in my many meetings with various Secretaries and Under Secretaries of Defense regarding HIA, it was fully understood that post-Superfund site maintenance would include a managed database, and appropriations were made with the database in mind.

In fact, the Department of Defense, as recently as this year, has stated its support for the type of post-remediation followup the database would provide. In a February 22, 1996 letter from Sherri W. Goodman, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security), she cites her support for the annual report to Congress of the Defense Environmental Response Task Force (DERTF), which she chairs: "The purpose of the DERTF is to study and provide findings and recommendations for expediting and improving environmental response actions at military installations being closed or realigned." Further, Section 3.3 of the DERTF Report states: "Effective measures must be in place before transfer of property to ensure adequate protection of human health and the environment." And, in the same report, Section 3.4—Liability For Subsequent Response Actions: "However, further cleanup may be required if the land use changes and the original remedy, although protective for the anticipated land use, is not fully protective under the new land use."

Mr. Speaker, how can the Department of Defense in one publication express a need for and responsibility of site maintenance in the future and then deny such maintenance as is proposed with the site database for Harrisburg International Airport with the site database? And, to further weaken the DoD position on the HIA database, I offer that the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) at Harrisburg, which also serves as the Pennsylvania State Data Center, has proposed to manage and maintain the HIA site database for five years for under \$123,000. Mr. Speaker, this is a public entity, a professional data center, and an on-site location which has offered to manage a database for five years for a price the Department of Defense would probably charge for one year (and not do nearly as well).

Mr. Speaker, the facts are these: the Department of Defense made a commitment to this Member of Congress and the Common-

wealth of Pennsylvania to manage and maintain this database; the Department of Defense has stated this year in a Report to Congress its commitment to post-cleanup development and database management at its waste sites; the Pennsylvania State University has offered the best database management service at the best location for the best price. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Committee on Appropriations could have easily been persuaded to require the Department of Defense to fund this site database. We hope that the Department of Defense, and the Air Force and Corps of Engineers in particular, will see that the PSU database offer is the proper—and best—way to proceed and will make available the \$123,000 for the PSU-managed database from the appropriations it has already been given by the Congress to fully clean up the HIA/Olmsted site.

KHALISTAN SYMPOSIUM AT LONDON SCHOOL SHOWS KHALISTAN MOVEMENT IS GAINING MOMENTUM

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, the Khalistan Society at the London School of Economics recently sponsored a seminar on the subject of freedom for the Sikh nation in an independent Khalistan. The keynote speaker was Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, president of the Council of Khalistan, who has been vigilant in leading his people in the struggle for freedom. Other participants included British Member of Parliament Max Maddon and Mr. Rahman of Amnesty International. The Khalistan Society works to promote a free and independent Khalistan among the students and faculty of the London school. The London school is one of the world's most prestigious institutes, and this seminar is a significant step forward in the movement to liberate Khalistan.

The Sikh nation has suffered greatly under Indian tyranny. The Indian regime has killed over 150,000 Sikhs since 1984, as well as tens of thousands of Kashmiri Muslims, Christians in Nagaland, and other peoples throughout the subcontinent. No Sikh has ever signed the Indian constitution. In the past few days, a Khalistani American was arrested in India and charged with possessing a gun and drugs, which there is good reason to believe were planted on him. This is a standard tactic of the Indian police. In February 1995, Sikh human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra released a report that showed that the Indian regime had abducted, tortured, murdered, and cremated more than 25,000 Sikhs. For having released this report, Mr. Khalra was himself abducted by police while washing his car in front of his house on September 7, 1995. Despite international protest, the Indian Government refuses to release Mr. Khalra. His whereabouts remain unknown. I call upon the new Indian Government to release Mr. Khalra and all the other Sikh political prisoners languishing in Indian jails, some under now-expired emergency laws.

The Sikh nation has a tradition of self-rule. Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and from 1765 to 1849. When America was fighting for its independence, the Sikh nation was