

With each new creative idea and its effective implementation, Focus: HOPE took another step toward fulfillment of his dream. Working with Eleanor Josaitis and an increasing group of volunteers and a diverse, talented staff, Focus: HOPE introduced food and health support for low-income mothers and exceptional job training and specialized production units. The Machine Training Institute and the Center for Advanced Technologies today stand as testimony that education can be for virtually all a ticket out of poverty into a new world of opportunity.

The power of his faith, his ideas and his personality assure that Father Bill Cunningham's dreams for Focus: HOPE will continue to be realized. There are too many of us who had the privilege to work with him over the years who will stand for nothing less.

Indeed, the strongest challenge is whether the work of Father Bill Cunningham can be replicated in other places.

Father Cunningham asked that no monuments be erected to his memory. When thousands of us walk in his memory on October 12, we will be carrying his message and his achievements with us for all the world to see.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 8, 1997, I inadvertently voted "no" on final passage of the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act (rollcall vote No. 504). I ask that the RECORD show that my intention was to vote "aye."

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION ANTIPIRACY ACT

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Collections of Information Antipiracy Act, a bill to encourage continued investment in the production and distribution of valuable new collections of information.

Electronic collections, and other collections of factual material, are absolutely indispensable to the American economy on the verge of the new century. These information products put a wealth of data at the fingertips of business people, professionals, scientists, scholars, and consumers, and enable them to retrieve from this haystack of information the specific factual needle that they need to solve a particular economic, research, or educational problem. Whether they focus on financial, scientific, legal, medical, bibliographic, news, or other information, collections of information are essential tools for improving productivity, advancing education and training, and creating a more informed citizenry. They are also the linchpins of a dynamic commercial information industry in the United States.

Developing, compiling, distributing, and maintaining commercially significant collec-

tions requires substantial investments of time, personnel, and money. Information companies must dedicate massive resources when gathering and verifying factual material, presenting it in a user-friendly way, and keeping it current for and useful to customers. U.S. firms have been the world leaders in this field. They have brought to market a wide range of valuable collections of information that meet the information needs of businesses, professionals, researchers, and consumers worldwide. But several recent legal and technological developments threaten to cast a pall over this progress, by eroding the incentives for the continued investment needed to maintain and build upon the U.S. lead in world markets for electronic information resources.

I recently received a report from Dr. Laura D'Andrea Tyson, former National Economic Advisor to the President and former Chair of the White House Council on Economic Advisors. Dr. Tyson's study demonstrates strong economic reasons for providing adequate statutory protection for the data base industry, and points out that failure to act may result in adverse effects on technological progress, on economic growth, and possibly on the research, education, and scientific communities. Noted authors and scholars have also endorsed the need to provide some protection to collections of information, to prevent free-loaders from appropriating the fruits of others' investments.

Here in the United States, the 1991 Supreme Court decision in *Feist Publications versus Rural Telephone Service Co.* marked a tougher attitude toward claims of copyright in data bases. While reaffirming that most—although not all—commercially significant collections of information satisfy the "originality" requirement for protection under copyright, the Court emphasized that this protection is "necessarily thin." Several subsequent lower court decisions have underscored that copyright cannot stop a competitor from lifting massive amounts of factual material from a copyrighted collection to use as the basis for its own competing product. Producers are concerned that some of these cases may also cast doubt on the ability of a proprietor to use contractual provisions to protect itself against unfair competition from such free riders.

In cyberspace, technological developments represent a threat as well as an opportunity for collections of information, just as for other kinds of works. Copying factual material from another's proprietary collection, and rearranging it to form a competing information product—just the kind of behavior that copyright protection may not effectively prevent—is cheaper and easier than ever through digital technology that is now in widespread use.

When all these factors are added together, the bottom line is clear: it is time to consider new federal legislation to protect developers who place their materials in interstate commerce against piracy and unfair competition, and thus encourage continued investment in the production and distribution of valuable commercial collections of information.

While copyright, on the Federal level, and State contract law underlying licensing agreements remain essential for protecting the enormous investment in collections of information, there are gaps in the protection that can best be filled by a new Federal statute which will complement copyright law. The Collections of Information Antipiracy Act would prohibit the

misappropriation of valuable commercial collections of information by unscrupulous competitors who grab data collected by others, repackage it, and market a product that threatens competitive injury to the original collection. This new Federal protection is modeled in part on the Lanham Act, which already makes similar kinds of unfair competition a civil wrong under Federal law. Importantly, this bill maintains existing protections for collections of information afforded by copyright and contract rights. It is intended to supplement these legal rights, not replace them.

The Collections of Information Antipiracy Act is a balanced proposal. It is aimed at actual or threatened competitive injury from misappropriation of collections of information or their contents, not at uses which do not affect marketability or competitiveness. The goal is to stimulate the creation of even more collections, and to encourage even more competition among them. The bill avoids conferring any monopoly on facts, or taking any other steps that might be inconsistent with these goals.

This bill differs dramatically from H.R. 3531, introduced in the last Congress by then-Chairman Carlos Moorhead. H.R. 3531 proposed to enact a new form of sui generis copyright protection of data bases. This bill is a minimalist approach grounded in unfair competition principles as a complement to copyright, and the damage that can be done from substantial copying of collections of information.

In drafting this bill, I was particularly mindful of the concerns of the library, scientific research, and educational communities. Concerns raised in response to the introduction of H.R. 3531 last year by these groups warned of the dramatic consequences that could result from legislation in this area. My staff and I heard these concerns, through personal meetings and through the Copyright Office report on this issue presented to the Congress earlier this year. This bill alleviates those concerns by specifically allowing access and use for those purposes, while still providing necessary protection to ensure continued investment and production of collections of information.

This legislation provides the starting point for legislative activity on an important and complex subject. I look forward to hearing the suggestions and reactions of interested parties and of my colleagues at a hearing later this month.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES W. MEREDITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. James W. Meredith, the first African-American to enroll in a segregated university in Mississippi.

October 1, 1962 marked the date when James Meredith became the first African-American to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Mr. Meredith was born in Kosciusko, MS, on June 25, 1933. After living several years in Mississippi, James moved to live with his uncle in St. Petersburg, FL, where he enrolled in high school and finished. He enlisted