

Mr. WIDNALL. If you do have it, will you supply it for the record? (The information referred to follows:)

[From "With Heritage So Rich"]

FOREWORD

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

For 2 years I have had the privilege of living in one of the great historic homes of the United States. Daily the lives of the President and of my whole family have been affected by tangible mementos of earlier Chief Executives and their families. The experience has driven home to me the truth that the buildings which express our national heritage are not simply interesting. They give a sense of continuity and of heightened reality to our thinking about the whole meaning of the American past.

I was dismayed to learn from reading this report that almost half of the 12,000 structures listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service have already been destroyed. This is a serious loss and it underlines the necessity for prompt action if we are not to shirk our duty to the future.

We must preserve and we must preserve wisely. As the report emphasizes, in its best sense preservation does not mean merely the setting aside of thousands of buildings as museum pieces. It means retaining the culturally valuable structures as useful objects: A home in which human beings live, a building in the service of some commercial or community purpose. Such preservation insures structural integrity, relates the preserved object to the life of the people around it, and not least, it makes preservation a source of positive financial gain rather than another expense.

In the beautification work in which many of us are now engaged, we try to carry on our activities within the sturdy American tradition which seeks the beautiful which is also useful. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson may have disagreed politically. They emphatically agreed, however, that a garden was one of the most "rational" of pursuits because, while throwing a glow of color and charm on everything around it, it also provided food for the body and a place of repose and reflection for the mind. May this tradition of usefulness guide all our beautification work, including that specific important form of beautification, the retention and rehabilitation of our buildings of special historic significance.

I hope that many Americans will read this thoughtful and spirited volume and consider seriously what they can do to help bring its message to fulfillment. The report points out that a number of European countries have long since undertaken extensive programs for protecting the national heritage in highly practical ways. We, blessed with so exciting and meaningful a heritage, should hardly be less active.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON.

Mr. GRAY. The information, to be precise, as though it might be, Mr. Widnall, is that about half of the buildings, half of the 12,000 buildings listed in the historic American Building Survey, have disappeared. About half of the 12,000 which were listed—but of course, this doesn't include great numbers of structures and historic places, sites, which never were listed, which also have gone beyond any recovery.

Mr. WIDNALL. What are the apparent needs, and one of the things we are trying to do is to have a National Registry so we can inventory what we have.

Mr. GRAY. In my judgment, that is the first step, Mr. Chairman, because thereafter anything you try to do has a measure. It will be possible, then, to make legislation which involves housing, urban re-