

he set half a dozen years ago; that he has decided to, absolutely, as he has done in every other instance, keep his commitments.

This is the committed time in his mind to leave the Congress. I hope it is not a committed time in his mind to not be available to further service to Americans, because he has a lot of service, a lot of wisdom, a lot of history, a lot of heritage yet to share.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and for taking the time today to recognize the great work and commitment of Chairman BILL ARCHER from Texas.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I just have a few brief words at the end. I think our side is done. I think we have expressed our feelings. But I would just like to say one more thing.

WILLIAM ARCHER's example, not what he has done, because what he has done is very significant, his example is one of the finest I have ever seen, and he represents the greatest, I think, the greatest characteristic that this country has to offer.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, the legacy of BILL ARCHER is a gift of responsible government to the American people in a great diversity of actions.

Many times I have heard the cry for a national industrial policy. In truth, the tax code is the nation's industrial policy. BILL's "steady as you go" leadership has made our code far better than it would have been without his strong role of participation.

I did smile when PHIL ENGLISH mentioned President McKinley, who represented my home county of Stark as a congressman, as one of BILL's distinguished predecessors as chairman of Ways and Means. McKinley was a dedicated protectionist, however, in his last speech in Buffalo, he repudiated this policy. I think BILL would have liked the reformed McKinley rather than the congressional McKinley.

The people of this nation are in your debt for dedicated service for them.

My best to you BILL and Sharon for good health and many fruitful years of happiness.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, it is quite possible I have known BILL ARCHER longer than anyone in this Chamber. We met for the first time 30 years ago at a Lincoln Day festival. BILL was serving in the Texas State legislature at the time. I was told by mutual acquaintances that BILL was a strong conservative of unwavering principles, and that he would soon be elected to Congress. They were right on both counts.

In fact, the only time I have known of BILL wavering occurred about three years before we first met. BILL found it necessary to correct a mistake he had grown up with. He switched from the Democratic to Republican parties.

I have had the great honor and pleasure to sit next to BILL for 25 years now on the Ways and Means Committee. We have fought many fights together. We saw the power of the Committee exercised first-hand under Wilbur Mills. We experienced the curious mix of Chicago-style politics applied to national policy under Danny Rostenkowski. We celebrated

the 1981 tax cut together, the effects of which are still being felt in today's prosperity. And we suffered through the lost opportunities of the 1986 Tax Reform Act and the disastrous 1990 and 1993 tax increases.

BILL ARCHER has been a forceful and effective Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee through some of its most difficult years. These are partisan times, and, sadly, this partisanship has infected the work of the Committee all too often. Through it all, BILL has kept to his principles, and kept his sense of humor.

BILL ARCHER knows as well as anyone in the United States what is wrong with our tax system. And he sees all-too-well the unfortunate trends of recent years, such as the increasing use of tax credits and the use of the tax system as an alternative to spending. He has fought valiantly to resist these trends while building a fire for fundamental tax reform.

Unfortunately, BILL's legacy will not be the enactment of fundamental tax reform. But it will be the laying of the groundwork for the reforms to come. And they will come. Each of us must stand on the shoulders of those who preceded us. The Ways and Means Committee, and tax policy generally, will be standing on firm and principled ground years from now thanks to BILL's leadership.

To quote Winston Churchill speaking of Lord Halifax:

The fortunes of mankind in its tremendous journeys are principally decided for good or ill—but mainly for good, for the path is upward—by its greatest men and its greatest episodes.

BILL ARCHER has participated in, and in some cases presided over, some of the Ways and Means Committee's greatest episodes. By virtue of his unbending adherence to principle and fairness in the most tempestuous of times, he is also, in my opinion, one of its greatest men.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 117. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the special order to follow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM L. CLAY, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 1999, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, when this body ends this session, and I remain hopeful that it will, this august body is going to lose one of its most productive and innovative Members, WILLIAM L. CLAY, Sr.

BILL CLAY became a Member of this body in 1969, over 30 years ago. He came here as a young man, by his own admission, filled with a bit of anger. BILL CLAY had grown up in a system that gave very little respect to his skills, to his dreams, to his aspirations, and he had fought as a young man in order to make sure that opportunities would be open for people such as him. So, when he got here, he was filled with all kinds of anxieties.

To get a good feel for who and what BILL CLAY is, one should read his book, *Just Permanent Interests*. I have on occasion read various parts of that book. In fact, I have a choice of the three or four copies that people have made gifts to me of, and I keep one of them in each one of my places of abode, one here in Washington and one at home in the district. And every now and then as we encounter various things here on this floor and in our political interactions, I go to a part of that book in order to get a sense of some of the history that BILL CLAY has been a part of and some of the emotions that he experienced when he first arrived here.

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Mr. Speaker, I have been able to learn a lot from his experiences. And so when I arrived here, I sat with him, and we exchanged some of our great love of history. I am going to miss that when he leaves after next month.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of us will miss his wit and his wisdom. He is full of both; but for the wit, sometimes we would not have a good appreciation for the wisdom. So I want to say to BILL CLAY and others who are joining me today how much we appreciate him, not just as a Member of the Congress, but his personal friendship and interaction.

I suspect that I have had dinner with him more often than he would like. And, of course, I do not know, but I think he has enjoyed every one of them, because I have yet to be successful in getting him to pick up a tab for any of those dinners.

BILL CLAY has been a great guy. He has been a mentor to so many of us, and I consider it really a high part of my being here to be able to say to my children and grandchildren that I served here in this body for 8 years with him, and that we became fast friends, and that because of that friendship and because of that service together, I am a better person today than I was when I got here. I thank him for it.