

the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2462.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BARRETT OF NEBRASKA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized for 40 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I wanted to pay tribute to my colleague from the Third Congressional District in Nebraska, Congressman BILL BARRETT.

Nebraska has a very small House delegation, only three of us, and we are very close. We are very close for a variety of reasons. In addition to the fact that we are a small delegation, all of us happen to be of the same political party. Nebraska has a unique tradition in that we have a breakfast every Tuesday when the House and Senate are both in session to which we invite all Nebraskans and their guests visiting the Nation's Capitol to meet with us. We have been doing that since 1944, which I guess makes us the oldest breakfast on Capitol Hill.

It has forged a relationship, a close bond, even a bipartisan bond, within the delegation, that I think is one of the strongest in the Congress. It is a way for us to know each other well. It keeps us cooperating and working well, and our staffs as well. It has been my pleasure to learn much more about the capabilities and the personality of my good colleague from the Third District. BILL BARRETT represents a huge piece of America. The Third Congressional District is 66 counties in size, which makes BILL BARRETT's Third larger than 30 States, 30 individual States. He represents these 540,000 people scattered over about 63,000 miles.

BILL BARRETT, my colleague, is now serving in his fifth term as he prepares to retire from the Congress of the United States. He has not only had a distinguished career here in the House of Representatives during this five terms but he had a distinguished and very productive service to the State of Nebraska in many capacities before he came to the Congress of the United

States. He had a very important leadership background in the Republican Party in our State, serving 10 years on the Republican State executive committee. He served as the State party chairman for two years, as well as on the National Republican Committee. Later, he was elected to the Nebraska unicameral legislature. In fact, he and I missed serving together only by a matter of days. He served 10 years in that body as well, and during the last 4 years he served as the speaker of our unicameral house legislature, our one-house legislature.

Things are very different in that body. Not only is it nonpartisan, and it truly has acted that way in most respects, it is, of course, unicameral. There are no party caucuses in that body, and the chairman and the speaker are chosen by secret ballot by the entire membership of the legislature.

Now, that is very different than the U.S. House of Representatives, indeed. BILL BARRETT was elected to two successive terms as speaker, covering a period of 4 years, by secret ballot by his colleagues in the Nebraska legislature, because of their confidence in his fairness and his capabilities. In fact, I think he may well have been the first person at the time to be voted two successive terms as speaker, because ordinarily it rotated from one member to another that was chosen by that secret ballot.

Well, BILL BARRETT is going home to the Third Congressional District. He has been a champion of agriculture, a statesman. He is a father of four children with his wonderful wife Elsie, and now he has two grandchildren. He says he wants to spend more time with those grandchildren and as a recent grandfather myself I do understand how all of these grandchildren we have are really super children, and I can understand why BILL wants to retire back to, I am sure, a very active life in business and government and public service in Nebraska. He will be going back to his hometown of Lexington, Nebraska, shortly.

I will continue, but I would be pleased to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from the State of Michigan (Mr. SMITH), who I think he serves together on the Committee on Agriculture with BILL BARRETT.

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Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, because I have served with BILL for the last 7 years on the Committee on Agriculture, and I would like to just try to portray his diligence, enthusiasm and dedication to trying to make sure that the farmers not only in Nebraska survive, but the farmers all through the United States. We underwent a rewrite of the Federal agricultural policy. We are going to miss BILL BARRETT next year as we start the next 5-year re-

write. He has been a leader, of course, as chairman of one of the major subcommittees within the Committee on Agriculture; and I, as well as many of my colleagues in this Chamber, are going to miss BILL and Elsie. We hope they will come back and visit often. He has contributed enormously to the success of this Chamber, this body, and the committees on which he has served.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks, and I know that BILL BARRETT and Elsie appreciate them as well.

The gentleman mentioned his service on the Committee on Agriculture. The other committee on which BILL served, as he has from the beginning, is now called the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and the chairman of that committee is here, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), and I yield to him.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, about a year ago, and to the detriment of this House, BILL BARRETT announced that he was retiring at the end of the 106th Congress. His public service did not begin in the Nation's Capital; he started at the grass-roots level. He has been active in local, State, and national politics for many years. In fact, he has served the Republican Party in one capacity or another for over 40 years.

He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1990, and when we adjourn the 106th Congress, hopefully in the next day or 2 or 3, he will be completing his fifth term in Congress. I know there are many people here in Congress that will be sorry to see BILL retire, and I am sure there are quite a few people in Nebraska's third district that will miss his tireless service, considering he has been reelected by margins of 75 percent or more in each of his campaigns for the House. Everybody should envy that.

BILL served with me on the Committee on Education and the Workforce and is the vice-chair of the Committee on Agriculture and chairman of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Resource Conservation and Credit. Although we spend a lot of time in Washington, he always remembered the reason that he was here and effectively worked for business, child care, senior citizens, education, health care, rural development, agriculture, trade, and other issues vital to his residents in his district.

The third district of Nebraska can be proud of BILL BARRETT. His tenure here in the House is highlighted with many accomplishments and indeed evidence of his hard work. He was here when the Republicans made history and became the majority party in the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years; and as a result, Congressman BARRETT was a valuable part of the majority that finally restored fiscal responsibility, balanced the Federal