CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

March 29, 2001

NAYS—144

HON. JEROME B. NEUMAN (OHIO)

WHEREAS, the Department of the Treasury has imposed a sales tax on nursery stock and garden supplies and is planning to add a sales tax on plant materials, the latter of which is currently tax free

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to reconsider the vote on H.R. 6, the bill just passed.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, if I could just inquire, does the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) believe that the House has completed its legislative business for this week?

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the House will meet next for legislative business on Tuesday, April 3, at 12:30 p.m. for morning continuing consideration of the Death Tax Elimination Act. It is my expectation that that bill will be ready for consideration in the House on Wednesday, April 4. That being the case, the vote on the Death Tax Elimination Act in the House next Wednesday would be our last vote for the week heading into the Spring District Work Period. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding to me.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I assure you that the House has completed its legislative business for this week. The House will meet next for legislative business on Tuesday, April 3, at 12:30 p.m. for morning continuing consideration of the Death Tax Elimination Act. It is my expectation that that bill will be ready for consideration in the House on Wednesday, April 4. That being the case, the vote on the Death Tax Elimination Act in the House next Wednesday would be our last vote for the week heading into the Spring District Work Period. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding to me.

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Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for an inquiry.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker. I was not to my feet quickly enough to enter directly in the discussion about Michigan State and Arizona and some team from North Carolina that is playing.

But one ought to fear the turtle. I want everybody to understand that the Terrapins are coming to play, Gary Williams and his 10 starters.

This is on scheduling for Saturday night, Mr. Speaker, so I presume it is, therefore, relevant that everybody be aware that, at 8:20 p.m. on Saturday evening, Betsey ought to be watching when Maryland, who of course beat Duke worse than any other team this year at their place, will again have the opportunity of doing that.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I reclaim my time.

Mr. HOYER. Michigan State wants his time back.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, they did beat Duke; but I might also say to the gentleman from Maryland that they blew a 10-point lead with a minute left against Duke as well.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Michigan would not bet on that happening a second time, would he?

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, in case they do emerge victorious against Duke, I have wagered with the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR), a friendly wager I might say, Mr. Speaker, Michigan apples from my district in Romeo versus his tamales from Arizona if, in fact, either of us win this game.

I would say, when the Spartans go on to win, I would venture a friendly bet with the gentleman from Maryland, a bushel full of crabs versus a bushel full of Romeo apples. What does the gentleman from Maryland think?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the value of a bushel of crabs is so much greater than a bushel of apples that it is really not a fair Maryland's talent puts me at no risk, so I will be glad to accept that wager.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY.

APRIL 3, 2001

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, March 30, 2001, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE NORMAN SISISKY, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Norman Sisisky, a Representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Resolved, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided and controlled between the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and myself.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I join my fellow members of the Virginia congressional delegation and other Members of the House today in remembering Norman Sisisky, a true gentleman and a real patriot.

We had learned the news earlier this week that Norman's recent surgery had not gone well, and he had returned home to recuperate before his expected return to Washington after the upcoming recess. And today we heard the shocking news that he had passed away.

Mr. Speaker, his untimely passing reminds us all of our own mortality and how important it is to live our lives with honor and integrity, as Norman did, and to make the most of every opportunity to serve our fellow man, as Norman did. Norman was hard-working, friendly, honest, ethical, decent and moral. He was a Member who worked in a bipartisan way. He reached across the aisle to work for the best interests of America, and it was a privilege to serve with him for the 18 years that he was in Congress and to work with him on the congressional delegations on issues of importance to our State and Union.

Norman was born June 9, 1927, and graduated from John Marshall High School in Richmond, Virginia. He joined the Navy after high school and served through World War II until 1946. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1949 with a degree in business administration. He transformed a small Pepsi bottling company in Petersburg, Virginia, into a highly successful distributor of soft drinks throughout Southside Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, he began his public service career when he was elected as a delegate to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1973 representing Petersburg. He served five terms in the Virginia General Assembly before being elected to Congress in 1982. Norman, like another of our late colleagues, Herb Bateman, was a senior member of the House Committee on Armed Services, and from that vantage point was the protector of our national security, and probably no man or woman in this body did more to work with regard to national security and working in a bipartisan way.

Norman was the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement and also served on the Subcommittee on Readiness, and the Subcommittee on Morale, Welfare and Recreation Panel. He had recently been appointed to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Norman was also a Member of the Blue Dog Coalition in the 104th through the 107th Congress, and led bipartisan efforts that worked. In 1993, he was one of six Democrats for a strong defense and worked to mobilize against military cuts.

Norman was instrumental in working to get funding to build the newest aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan, which was recently christened. He worked tirelessly as an advocate for production of shipbuilding and strengthening our national defense. He represented with pride Virginia's Fourth Congressional District in the southeastern corner of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the home of the first permanent English settlement in North America, and today the home of one of the largest concentrations of military power in the world.