

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

"A bill to complete the orderly withdrawal of the NOAA from the civil administration of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, and to assist in the conservation of coral reefs, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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DILLONWOOD GIANT SEQUOIA GROVE PARK EXPANSION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4020, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4020, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

"A bill to authorize the addition of land to Sequoia National Park, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY, MISSISSIPPI, BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the Senate bill, S. 2020.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2020.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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GUAM OMNIBUS OPPORTUNITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2462.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by 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.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EHLERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LEACH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RUSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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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 rewrite. 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 suc-

cess 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 budget, and started to pay off the national debt.

Congressman BARRETT has always been an effective voice for rural America. His leadership contributed greatly to the Federal Agriculture Improvement Reform Act of 1996, which is helping to provide the basis for a strong and profitable agriculture sector in the 21st century. Over the years, he has

worked to improve rural education. In fact, I think it is safe to say that in every debate, discussion or vote we had in the Committee on Education and the Workforce, BILL BARRETT was there, trying to make sure that we were addressing the needs of small rural schools. He would never let us forget that rural school districts could not compete against larger school districts for Federal education grants and has worked diligently to increase the flexibility so that these schools are in a better position to improve academic achievement.

Just this past week, he was instrumental in ensuring the passage of the Older Americans Act, and that was not an easy job. We have been trying to reauthorize that act for many, many years. About a year and a half ago, BILL came and said, I would be very happy to take that on as a challenge, if you want me to do so; and I said, I am sure that the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), and I would be extremely happy if you would take on that challenge. Everybody thought that we did not make it again; but lo and behold, last week, through his consistent determination that it was going to happen, it was passed. So he has been very instrumental in that passage of the Older Americans Act.

So not only did Congressman BARRETT care about the programs that affected his district, he also cared about the individual constituents in his districts. I know that he felt one of the most important duties of a Member of Congress is constituent casework. He tried to always be there to lend a hand when his constituents needed help cutting through the government's red tape. He could not guarantee a solution to every problem, but he sure tried.

BILL BARRETT is a fiscal conservative, a dedicated public servant, a champion for agriculture and education, a respected statesman, and one of the nicest guys you will ever meet. I read somewhere that Bill has finally decided that he is at the point in his life where he would rather start the day with "good morning, Grandpa" instead of "good morning, Congressman." Well, I cannot say I disagree with him. I envy him, because I do not have any grandchildren to say that. He should be truly proud of the years that he has committed to Nebraska, and indeed our country; and I thank BILL BARRETT for his service, and I wish him and Elsie many years of happiness in the future.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I do want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for his remarks regarding our colleague, BILL BARRETT. I know that they will be very well received by BILL.

Mr. Speaker, he is exactly right, and I can imagine that he would be bringing up the interest of rural, not metropolitan, America in practically everything he did on the gentleman's committee. In fact, I asked for examples from his staff on three of the things that Bill was most pleased or proud of in recent times, and two of the things the gentleman mentions are indeed among them. His staff said, well, certainly one of the things is the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

Secondly, I know that he was involved in some issues that relate to schools and giving rural schools a better opportunity to use their funds more flexibly. I think it is called the Rural School Initiative, whereby included in the appropriations conference report it would allow rural schools to combine formula grants and apply for supplemental funds to offer extra flexibility and funding for locally determined education needs. Also, the passage of a bill, the Grain Standards and Warehouse Improvements Acts of 2000, which is extremely important to his district and to rural America generally.

It is true that BILL BARRETT is one of the nicest people you will ever run into. He regards everybody that he meets as a potential friend; and I think, as you walk with him through the halls of the House of Representatives, it is very interesting and complimentary to him that he is on a first-name basis with so many of the people on the staff who do exceptional work for us here in the House of Representatives. This is a special place to BILL, and the people that work here with us are special to him.

Mr. Speaker, I want to mention that my other colleague from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) may not be able to join us tonight. I know he had, in effect, I believe baby-sitting duties for his three young sons, but I will submit his statement certainly for the RECORD here. I wanted to just read a couple of excerpts from the letter of our colleague from the second district in his first term, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY). He has this to say about BILL BARRETT: "He has spearheaded efforts to maintain alcohol fuels tax credit and in 1998, succeeded in extending a program vital to Nebraska's corn growers and a nation in need of renewable energy resources. He is a distinguished gentleman who is always well informed and insightful. Congressman BILL BARRETT, even though I was in my first term," Mr. TERRY goes on to say, "never pushed his advice on me; he was always available when I sought his sage advice on policy and procedure. Without exception, it was well grounded and rooted in his love for our State. There is no doubt his counsel made me a better representative for Nebraska, as the wonderful public servant that he is, Congressman BARRETT is an even more remarkable man for his devout faith, spirituality, and his unending love of his family."

I think in light of that last remark, it is not surprising to know that BILL BARRETT was, in fact, the chairman of the House Bipartisan Nondenominational Prayer Breakfast, which meets every Thursday here at 8 a.m.

BILL BARRETT is without a doubt the colleague that I have served with who is the most cooperative and friendly and totally dedicated person in his performance that I have had the pleasure to serve with. He has many friends here. He was elected as the president of his class, and I think continued to serve in that throughout his career here.

Among his classmates are two gentlemen that are alleged to look exactly like him. I know when the three of them are sitting together, as not only good friends, but they look alike, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG). They oftentimes will sit right over there, and they make sure that they have their glasses on at the same time so that they are almost indistinguishable, and sometimes I think they take great care in what they deliver in the way of comments on the House Floor because they might be mistaken for the other.

In any case, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING) is also leaving. He is also a distinguished member of the Committee on Agriculture that has been very helpful to BILL and to me and to our constituents. But I know that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING), and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), in particular, asked me to express their extraordinary fondness and appreciation for the service that BILL BARRETT has rendered here as a Member of the United States House of Representatives.

Those of my colleagues that watch the proceedings of the floor will oftentimes find BILL BARRETT as the presiding officer of this body. Again and again, throughout the day and into the evenings, he is a person you could rely upon to give fair kinds of decisions and good council and dignity to the Chamber as a presiding officer.

So BILL BARRETT and Elsie, we are going to miss Bill here very much. We know that you are going to be happy to have more of his time. But we look forward to the last few days of service here with BILL BARRETT, and then I look forward to continuing to work with him as a citizen of our State of Nebraska.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Nebraskan, a respected colleague, and a tremendous friend. Congressman BILL BARRETT is not only a consummate gentleman and a devoted public servant, but he is also able to balance his weighty duties in Congress with his even weightier duties as a father of four, a proud grandfather, and a husband to his remarkable wife, Elsie. Congressman BARRETT has my admiration and respect for a life of public service, and the admiration, respect, and thanks of the entire state of Nebraska. Upon his retirement, he will be missed by an entire state that has looked to

him for leadership and guidance in his 30 years of public service.

Congressman BARRETT officially began a life in politics as a member of the Nebraska State Republican Party. He served as Chairman from 1973 to 1975. In 1979 he was elected to Nebraska's State Legislature where he ascended to become Speaker of the Unicameral for his last four years there, from 1987 to 1991. Congressman BARRETT was elected to this body of Congress in 1990. He has spent his entire life devoted to his districts, his state, and his country.

Congressman BARRETT's most notable accomplishment in Congress came in 1996, when his leadership on the Agriculture Committee greatly contributed to passage of the Freedom to Farm Act. The Act's sweeping reforms brought much-needed change to antiquated farm-subsidy programs by replacing them with market-based policies that allow our producers to better compete in a global agricultural economy. He also spearheaded efforts to maintain alcohol fuels tax credits, and in 1998, succeeded in extending a program vital to Nebraska's corn growers and a nation in need of renewable energy resources. Nebraska's farmers, and America's farmers, owe Congressman BARRETT a debt of gratitude.

Before I ran for Congress, I met with Congressman BARRETT on only a half-dozen occasions. He always strikes me as a person who epitomizes Congress. He is a distinguished gentleman who is always well-informed and insightful. It was only after I was elected to this body in 1998 and spent a great deal of time with Congressman BARRETT that my appreciation and respect for him as a person, a father, a grandfather, and a friend blossomed. Plenty of my colleagues are willing to offer advice, but few offer it as genuinely. Congressman BARRETT never pushed his advice on me; he was always available when I sought his sage advice on policy and procedure. Without exception it was sound and rooted in his love for our State. There is no doubt his counsel made me a better representative for Nebraska.

As wonderful a public servant he is, however, Congressman BARRETT is even more remarkable a man for his devout faith, spirituality, and his unbending love of family. When he told me he was days away from announcing his retirement, water welled in his eyes as he looked at my children, Nolan, age 5, and Ryan, age 2, and said, "My grandkids are about the same age and I want to go home and spend time with them." I wish only the best for Congressman BARRETT's family as they gain as a grandfather what we in Congress lose as a colleague. I am fortunate to always have in him a true friend.

Bill, you have the Terry family's and the State of Nebraska's humble thanks and eternal gratitude. We wish that in your retirement, your only job as a grandfather, you find the same fulfillment and richness you found in your years of service to Nebraska and to our great country. God bless you.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. 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 my Special Order.