

former Senator John Breaux actually won a mixed doubles tournament at the Capitol Hill Tennis Club.

She is a very, very familiar face to us, and one that we will miss greatly. And I would like all of us, Mr. Speaker, to join in expressing our appreciation to the fine service of Susan Hanback.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from California, the chairman of the Committee on Rules, for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who have been here for some period of time quickly learn that those who serve this House, this institution, who may not speak in the well, who may not introduce legislation, who may not participate in debates, nevertheless are absolutely critical to the legislative process. As a group they bring a degree of love of country, love of the House of Representatives, and commitment to their work that surely if paralleled somewhere, it is only in a few places.

I have had the privilege of working with the desk officers, the reporters, the parliamentarians for now over a quarter of a century, less time than Susan Hanback has served this House. She was here when I came here in 1981.

Her decision to retire as Chief of the Office of Official Reporters is, of course, wonderful news for her and her family. We had an opportunity to discuss it on the floor just the other evening about how she is going to enjoy her Virginia residence, perhaps much more peaceful, less hassled, but from time to time perhaps a little less interesting as well, but certainly more restful. And she deserves the rest because her service has been extraordinary.

As has been said by the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), she has worked in the House since the late 1960s. She witnessed during that time some of the most important events that have occurred on the House floor, including debates on legislation affecting every aspect of Americans' lives as she transcribed innumerable speeches and statements of hundreds of Members of Congress.

Those who transcribe history are critically important because future generations will learn from the historic record that they have set down, and the accuracy of that reporting is critically important not only to the deliberations of this body today, but it will be critically important to the precedents of tomorrow.

Mrs. Hanback has dedicated her career to serving the American people just as surely as every one of us who serves here in elected office. Those who serve as reporters and at the desk and as the parliamentarians and in every other aspect of making sure this House runs correctly serve America, serve America's citizens, serve America's freedom. By accurately reporting for

and helping oversee the production of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Susan has helped ensure that there is a government accessible to the people and is, therefore, a government for the people, of the people, and by the people.

Susan was critical, as so many of you are whose names are not known to the public and, indeed, whose names may not be known to many who serve here by your sides every day. But because your names are not known, it does not mean that the service you perform is not absolutely essential to our democracy.

Susan Hanback was offered a job, Mr. Speaker, as a Senate official reporter in 1987. As testimony to the love of this House, she turned that offer down and chose to stay in the House because she thought it was more interesting, and the people said, Amen.

We are all, of course, very grateful, Susan, that you made that decision. We have been advantaged not only by the skill with which you have performed your job, but by the warmth of your personality and the grace that you have served this body.

I would like to wish you all the very best. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), minority leader, and the leadership on this side joins with the Speaker, the majority leader, the majority whip, and all the officers, including the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), on that side of the aisle to say in a nonpartisan, bipartisan, unanimous way, Susan, you have served us well. You have served your country well. We wish you the very greatest of happiness as you now retire from this body to serving so well your family as you have done for so long, but now will do so much more present with them, and we wish you the very best.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank my friend for his very thoughtful comments.

And as he was talking about Susan's history here, and as I look at the gathered employees here of the House of Representatives, I was thinking during the remarks that the gentleman from Maryland, the distinguished minority whip offered, of the new assignment that we have taken on here in this institution when we established under the direction of the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), minority leader, this new commission, the House Democracy Assistance Commission. And we have over the past several months, and are continuing at this time, to proceed with assessments of different countries around the world, and we are working with those Parliaments that are looking to model their work after much of what we do here. Obviously, there are some things that we might do a little differently.

But, clearly, the example that Susan has set is one that is a model not just for the future here in the United States of America, but, Mr. Speaker, it should be known that her example is one that can be set for these emerging Par-

liaments, and there are so many of them around the world, because of the great reverence that is held for this institution. And as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) said very well, the appreciation that exists for all who work at this institution is something that is held by all of us who are privileged to serve as elected representatives of this House.

And we do wish you well in your retirement. And we want you to know, of course, from the Speaker and all of the leadership team, as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) said, on both sides of the aisle, that you are welcome back to visit us at any time at all.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:35 p.m.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:35 p.m.

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□ 1840

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 6 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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□ 1859

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 6 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.

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#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3, SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 3) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes:

[The Conference Report will be printed in Book II.]

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2245

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 28, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 28, 2005 at 8:45 pm: That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3045.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,  
*Clerk of the House.*

#### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2005, PART VI

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Science, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Resources be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3512) to provide an extension of administrative expenses for highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, is this the legislation extending time for the transportation bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Yes, it is.

Mr. SHAYS. Then, Mr. Speaker, reserving my right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple extension which is necessary once we pass H.R. 3 to give time for an enrollment and delivering the package to the Senate, which we hope to do tonight, and then after being enrolled on to the President, and that will take some time.

If we do not do this, the Federal Government and the transportation system

will be shut down. This has been requested by the administration and by the other body.

Mr. SHAYS. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I would love to have a dialogue with the gentleman bringing out the bill, but first will express my reservation of objection.

In the full bill that we will be considering, there is a section 1942 entitled Opening of Airfield at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. It reads: "Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall, (1) open the Air Field At Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana; and (2) enable flying operations for all fixed-wing aircraft at that base."

My objection is that I understand this resolution extension will only go until August 14. That means that the President is forced to sign the bill, the ultimate bill that we pass, even if he has objections to the bill. I have deep concern that we are basically forcing the President to agree to an act that will reopen a base closed under BRAC without any options.

And if the President does the right thing, which would be to veto this bill so that stuff like this is not made into law, then our government transportation shuts down. My reservation is that the extension is not long enough.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHAYS. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. May I remind the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, that this was asked for by the administration. This was the length that they wanted to have it, 14 days. To in fact have this extension any longer has not been requested by the administration, and I believe this can do the job. The President has to make the decision. If he wishes to veto the bill, he can do so.

But this has been a request by the administration. This is the eleventh extension we have had on this legislation, and I will be right up front with everybody that I think it is the last one we should be doing. This is very important to the States themselves.

The President will make that decision on the merits of the gentleman's argument, and I understand those merits. I will not disagree with what he said. I am just suggesting respectfully that this is action for the bill itself and for the rule. But for the extension, this has been a request made by the administration, by the other body, and of course the leadership of this House.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would like to ask the gentleman, and will yield to him for a response to this question: Does the President know that in this transportation bill there is legislation language that will undo a BRAC closing? Is he aware that this language is in this?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I am confident that the President of the

Senate has communicated with the White House. All through this process they have been very much involved in the process of passage of this legislation. I have not asked his opinion on that part of the legislation. I know that this is a request, and I am trying to fulfill that request.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHAYS. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, this item which the gentleman has raised was an item requested by Senate conferees on which Senate conferees voted and asked us to consider. We were not aware at the time that it was a BRAC item. We learned about it subsequently.

Our review of the matter reveals that one runway at the Air Force base was closed; the other runway is active and still operating as a military facility. This language would simply keep the other one runway operating for a variety of purposes, multiuse purposes, at the airport.

Mr. SHAYS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to confide with my colleague that I am told that this is language that will basically reopen a base that was closed under BRAC, and that while the gentleman is under the interpretation he is under, there are many of us who believe it is quite different. While I greatly respect the gentleman, it seems to me this House of Representatives has to someday stand up to the Senate when they do this kind of stuff, sir.

What we are seeing here is absolutely outrageous, and what would have been a preferred extension, in my judgment, would be to have allowed the President such time that he could have had an extension until he signed this legislation. And if he did not sign this legislation, we could have come back and corrected this.

I am hopeful that before the night is out that we are going to delete section 1942. I do not know how it is going to happen, but, Lord knows, if it does not, we have basically done something that I think is shameful to the process and reflects badly not just on the Senate, but on the House that we would allow them.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I concur in the gentleman's feelings about this matter. It should not have been an item in a conference report on a transportation bill of this magnitude, but as we all know, these things make their way in. We did not have full information.

Our information subsequently is that the base was not closed, but that one runway was shut down, and this language was to open that one runway. There will be a further opportunity in a technical correction to address the concerns of the gentleman from Connecticut, and I am confident that the