

consideration of title XV of the House bill, and subtitle A of title VII of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Mr. ARCHER, Mr. THOMAS, Mrs. JOHN-SON of Connecticut, and Messrs. MCCRERY, GIBBONS, STARK, and CARDIN. There was no objection.

□ 2030

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SEASTRAND). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE L. HAYS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FURSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bonnie L. Hays, of Washington County, OR, who has selflessly given of herself through 20 years of community service. From her days as a high school teacher to her recent 8-year tenure as the chairwoman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, Ms. Hays exemplifies the virtues of commitment, hard-work, and compassion. Her extensive community involvement is testament to her belief in public service.

As Chairwoman, Bonnie oversaw the implementation of the Major Street Transportation Improvement Plan, overwhelmingly approved by voters. This program has allowed for Washington County to maintain its roadway infrastructure while dealing with incredible growth. Her work in mental health and juvenile corrections has resulted in streamlining and making more efficient those county agencies that deal with the complex issues related to community health and safety. Her service to El Centro Cultural and A Child's Place have brought greater attention to minority and children's needs.

Now, as Bonnie faces her toughest battle we remember her spirit and strength. She is in our hearts and minds today. I am privileged to have this opportunity to recognize her before this body and I am honored to call her a friend.

IN MEMORIAM: HON. B.F. "BERNIE" SISK (1910-1995)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RADANOVICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the loss of one of our former Members, the Honorable Bernice Frederic Sisk. "Bernie," as he was widely and popularly known was first elected to Congress in 1954. His service began in the

84th Congress and continued for 11 succeeding Congresses. He was not a candidate for re-election in 1978, returning to his Fresno, California home where he lived and served the community in many ways until he went to his final rest on Wednesday of this week—October 25.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to represent today much of the area of California that Congressman Sisk served during his near quarter century in this House. Thus, I am familiar with his legacy and I know from countless constituents the admiration and respect in which he was held.

What was written by Capital commentators over time about Congressman Sisk is worth recalling as we honor his memory. In the 1972 Almanac of American Politics, reference is made to how his ingratiating personality and conservative record saw him, an important figure in the House, become a candidate for Majority Leader in late 1970.

I feel a kinship with my late predecessor, Mr. Speaker, not only because of geographical identity and his conservatism—even though my party was not his—but also because of his main legislative interest, namely, agriculture, and his sponsorship of major water projects for California's Central Valley. Indeed, the San Luis Dam of the Central Valley Project is named for him.

Our community also applauded "Bernie" Sisk's legislative leadership in 1977 when he moved to the fore in connection with health care cost control related to Medicare. According to Congressional Quarterly Almanac, he relayed concerns from his district about the effects of an administration plan. He said, according to CQ, "hospitals must have some way to control the cost of their supplies if they were required to control their revenues." The publication reports that Congressman Sisk said hospitals in his area had complained that Federal regulations had become too binding, preventing economy measures that the hospitals wanted to institute. "There must be more flexibility," he is reported as saying.

Probably no better statement of the legacy of Congressman Sisk could be expressed than that of our former colleague, Congressman Tony Coelho, who once served as Congressman Sisk's administrative assistant here on the Hill. Tony told me today, "No single individual did more to advance the economy and growth of the Central Valley than Bernie Sisk."

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Sisk's passing is a loss to our community and country. To his family, friends, and all he served with great distinction, I express my sincerest sympathy.

In further esteem for his memory, I ask that there be included with my remarks the published obituary from the Fresno Bee of October 26, 1995, entitled "Congressman Leaves Legacy."

CONGRESSMAN LEAVES LEGACY

(By Felicia Cousart and Michael Doyle)

Former Congressman B.F. Sisk, who emerged from a Dust Bowl childhood to become a longtime political power broker in the nation's capital, died Wednesday in Fresno after a lengthy illness.

He was 84.

Mr. Sisk, a moderate Democrat from Fresno who served in Congress from 1955 to 1979, worked with six presidents and four House speakers during his long tenure representing the Valley.

The one-time tire salesman was one of the most influential lawmakers to come from

the region, benefiting not only Valley interests but shaping national policy as well.

"There's nobody who had a greater impact on the San Joaquin Valley than Bernie Sisk," said Tony Coelho, former House majority whip and Mr. Sisk's one-time administrative assistant. "You can go up and down the Valley and find the projects he put there."

But Mr. Sisk's story is much more than the legacy of a political mover-and-shaker. How he got there is just as fascinating, especially for a man who professed to never have any political ambitions until that day in 1954 when Mr. Sisk, then 43, decided to run for office.

He upset Republican Oakley Hunter in what was then California's 12th District and never looked back.

"POLITICAL ACCIDENT"

Mr. Sisk's years in Congress stretched from the laid-back days of Eisenhower to the turmoil of Vietnam and Nixon's Watergate to the early years of the Carter administration.

"I was a political accident," Mr. Sisk said in his easy Texas drawl in 1978 when he announced he would retire. He said he never caught what is called "Potomac fever."

For a "political accident," Mr. Sisk's work had far-reaching consequences, from his relentless pursuit of the San Luis water project in the Valley to serving on a committee that helped land the first man on the moon.

He showed a remarkable aptitude for the political game and became a consummate player. As a member of the House Rules Committee and House Administration Committee, he did for other lawmakers so that they could do for him.

"That gave him a very powerful place," said former Sen. Alan Cranston. "He'd start something in the House, or I'd start something in the Senate and then we'd work together."

Mr. Sisk's greatest single Valley contribution is the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project. Recently, the San Luis Dam was re-named B.F. Sisk San Luis Dam. The project includes the vast reservoir near Los Banos and 115 miles of canals that help irrigate farmland between Los Banos and Kettleman City.

At more than 2 million acre-feet, the San Luis Reservoir is the largest reservoir in the world without a natural stream.

"I'm not sure anybody else could have gotten it through," Coelho said.

And there are other projects that exist because of Mr. Sisk.

Communities like Sanger, Selma, Madera and others tapped into federal funds because of him. The huge Internal Revenue Service center in Fresno, with its 3,500 permanent employees, is in Fresno because of Mr. Sisk. The federal building in downtown Fresno is named after Mr. Sisk.

But his reach went far beyond the Valley. When the Soviet Union sent Sputnik into orbit in 1957, Washington went into a tailspin. Within hours, House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas put together a blue-ribbon committee on science and astronautics and appointed Mr. Sisk.

The committee acted to create the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a move that climaxed with the United States landing Apollo 11 on the moon in 1969.

In 1961, Rayburn again picked Mr. Sisk for another plum assignment: serving on the power-wielding Rules Committee.

The panel is for insiders only—its members set the rules for debate and decide which amendments can be voted on.

That committee in the early 1960's helped change history. President Kennedy pushed to

add Mr. Sisk and five other members to dilute the power of the Southern Democratic chairman who was blocking Kennedy's agenda.

With the balance shifted, the committee moved ahead on more progressive Democratic proposals that included civil rights, minimum wage and education aid legislation.

IMPORTANT ISSUES

Not all of Mr. Sisk's efforts were of such weighty magnitude, but they were just as important to him.

A baseball fanatic who played the game in high school and college, Mr. Sisk campaigned fervently to keep a professional baseball team in Washington, D.C., when the Senators announced they were leaving in 1971. He and other congressmen even got a committee together.

In 1973, The Touchtown Club of Washington, one of the major athletic clubs in the nation, gave Mr. Sisk its "Mr. Sam Award" in recognition of his efforts.

Mr. Sisk had the ability to separate his personal relationships from his political positions. For example, even as he resisted Southern California's recurring bids for water, he maintained good relations with all sides.

"He used to hate my client but he and I got along great," said Bob Will, a longtime lobbyist for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

"He was one of the fairest guys I ever dealt with. If he had a problem, he summoned me to his office and we tried to work it out," Will said. "Bernie was one of the real doers." He did not always get what he wanted. He tried for the position of House majority leader once and failed. Then he tried for the chairmanship of the House Democratic caucus and failed.

He had his rivals for power in California, like the late San Francisco Congressman Phil Burton and they would maneuver for advantage against one another.

But Mr. Sisk was never short of admirers. "Congressman Sisk helped establish a tradition of moderate Democrats from the Valley who are committed to furthering the cause of Valley agriculture," said Rep. Cal Dooley, D-Hanford. "His tradition is one that I and other valley legislators have tried to follow."

His Republican colleague, Rep. George Radanovich of Mariposa, said the community and nation lost a leader.

"Bernie Sisk's service and his special concerns for California's Central Valley set a standard that all of us respect and will long remember," he said.

"I wouldn't even call him a politician," said Tim Dillon, former lobbyist for the Westlands Water District. "He would never connive. Bernie was just a fine person from the standpoint of integrity"

HIS BEGINNINGS

He was born Bernice Frederick Sisk on Dec. 14, 1910, in a house in rural Montague County in Texas. It was a family of traditional Southern Democrats.

His father, Arthur Lee Sisk, was a farmer and his mother was the former Lavina Thomas. He was the oldest of three children.

It was a time when young Bernie rode to school on a horse named Beauty, and he remembered at the age of 7 "going with my parents in the Model T to the Baptist Church in Alanreed to listen to a new invention called a radio."

In school, history was his favorite subject. He finished high school in Meadow, Texas, where he was class valedictorian.

It is also where he met his first wife, Reta. It was not exactly love at first sight. Mr. Sisk had fallen for another and ended up on

a double date. Reta was the date of the other fellow.

"Well, Reta and I soon found out we liked each other better and became engaged to be married before we graduated from high school," Mr. Sisk recalled.

They were wed on April 20, 1931, and were married for 54 years until her death in January 1986.

Reta helped keep him a down-to-earth man. She would play annual April Fool's Day jokes on him that rarely failed to get his goat.

After high school, Mr. Sisk enrolled in a business college and later attended Abilene Christian College.

The Depression and drought in Texas made times tough for the Sisks and everyone else. Their first child, Bobbye, was born in February 1932, and their second child, Marilyn, was born in February 1935.

Mr. Sisk found different kinds of jobs, like running a service station and working for his father at a cotton gin, but it got to the point where there "were just no jobs to be had." He managed to get work as a truck driver but it meant long hours away from the family.

By 1937, it was time to move and California seemed the best destination.

His first job paid 30 cents an hour to thin nectarines. From there, he picked other crops until he landed a job at California Growers Wineries near Cutler. He helped organize a union there and was its first shop steward.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, Mr. Sisk was 31 and volunteered for officer candidate school. He went to work as a flight dispatcher at Sequoia Field in Visalia.

After the war, the Sisks moved to Fresno, and Mr. Sisk found a job as a tire salesman, eventually becoming general manager for the General Tire and Rubber Co.

IN TUNE WITH VALLEY

It was this job that put Mr. Sisk in tune with what was happening throughout the county. As he visited with farmers on the Valley's west side, he learned of their water problems.

Mr. Sisk also noted there were few Democratic leaders in the area and complained about it.

Then one day in 1954, Mr. Sisk was invited by lawyer Ken Andreen and labor newspaper editor Charles Clough to meet at the old Sequoia Hotel on Van Ness Avenue.

Mr. Sisk thought he was going to make another tire sale. But they wanted to sell him on something—running for Congress.

"Man, I almost fell out of my chair," Mr. Sisk recalled, "I said, 'You people are mixed up. I work for General Tire and Rubber Company.'"

They said: "We understand that's the work you do, but we have been told that you're a Democrat and frankly we're needing a candidate."

The rest is history.

Mr. Sisk worked with some of the most powerful men in America's political history. He worshiped Rayburn, who appointed him to those prized spots on the Rules Committee and the aeronautics committee.

He said his favorite president was Kennedy. "I was a disciple of Camelot," he said. "I came to love that guy. I never felt more of a personal attachment for a president."

Once retired, Mr. Sisk returned to Fresno and threw himself into a number of projects.

After Reta's death, Mr. Sisk married again seven months later to Virgie Mitchell, whose late husband was a brother of Reta.

For Mr. Sisk, responding to thousands of constituents' queries was just as important as running in the high-powered circles of Washington.

Andreen, who became a justice for the 5th District Court of Appeal, would share a story at a 1978 testimonial dinner for Mr. Sisk about the farmer whose tractor was stuck in the mud because the Friant-Kern Canal was flooding his land.

Mr. Sisk, just elected, was in the process of moving into his Washington office. In 2½ hours, Mr. Sisk called the farmer back.

"He did not say, 'I'm going to get on it' or 'I told so-and-so to do something,'" Andreen said. "No, he told the farmer, 'The leak is fixed and your tractor is out of the mud.' Nothing happens that fast in government—unless it comes to the attention of Bernie Sisk."

TRIBUTES

"Bernie was everybody's congressman. He was always enormously helpful to his constituents. He knew when to leave partisan politics outside the room. . . . His heart and mind were always back home."—Charles "Chip" Pashayan, former U.S. representative.

"Congressman Sisk helped establish a tradition of moderate Democrats from the Valley who are committed to furthering the cause of Valley agriculture. His tradition is one that I and other Valley legislators have tried to follow."—Rep. Cal Dooley, D-Hanford.

"Our community and our country have lost a leader. Bernie Sisk's service and his special concerns for California's Central Valley set a standard that all of us respect and will long remember."—Rep. George Radanovich, R-Mariposa.

"Bernie Sisk will go down in history as a person that probably has done more for agriculture, particularly in terms of helping to provide irrigation water. He was very instrumental in the construction of the San Luis Dam. And those who served with him, whether they agreed with him or not, will always remember him as a true gentleman."—John Krebs, former U.S. representative.

"There's nobody who had a greater impact on the San Joaquin Valley than Bernie Sisk. You can go up and down the Valley and find the projects he put there."—Tony Coelho, former House majority whip and B.F. Sisk's one-time administrative assistant.

"He was one of the fairest guys I ever dealt with. If he had a problem, he summoned me to his office and we tried to work it out. Bernie was one of the real doers."—Bob Will, a longtime lobbyist for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

"I wouldn't even call him a politician. He would never connive. Bernie was just a fine person from the standpoint of integrity."—Tim Dillon, former lobbyist for the Westlands Water District.

"Man, I almost fell out of my chair. I said 'You people are mixed up. I work for General Tire and Rubber Company.'"—Sisk, when asked to run for Congress.

"His number one thing was to take care of the constituents. He never held himself out to be a world leader. What Bernie had, that very few folks have, was the ability to disagree with you without making you angry."—Gordon Nelson, Sisk's former administrative assistant.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. UPTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. UPTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]