

between parties, as do our offices. Last year Bill Richardson was here to receive the award. This year the recipients are both Republicans, they are both Senators, and they are married. How is that? Thirty questions.

The recipients of the award are Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker of Kansas and the former Republican leader of the Senate, Howard Baker of Tennessee. The plaque reads "Presented by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress jointly to the Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr., and the Honorable Nancy Kassebaum Baker, each of whom extended the family tradition of public service in the highest degree in many areas, including a total of four decades of exemplary leadership in the United States Senate where their country and colleagues benefited immeasurably from their intuition, their judgment, their humanity and their tireless dedication to the welfare of the Republic, Washington, D.C., May 13, 1998."

Just very briefly, because everybody here and everybody listening knows their backgrounds. But what is really interesting, among other things, is both obviously came from a political family. Nancy Kassebaum's father was the former governor of Kansas and ran in 1936 for the Republican nomination. Senator Baker's mother and father both served in the House of Representatives. And his father-in-law, Senator Dirksen, was the majority leader in the United States Senate for some time. And of course, in the Senate, Senator Kassebaum Baker chaired the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, the Subcommittee on Africa of the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on aviation, serving today on many non-profit boards. And of course, Senator Baker was the first Republican ever popularly elected in Tennessee, won elections, served both as the minority leader and the leader in the Senate.

Everybody remembers Senator Baker as the vice chairman of the Watergate Committee, the keynote speaker at the Republican National Convention, candidate for President in 1980, received all sorts of awards and medals, which I will not go into because I think we would rather hear from both of you than read any more of it.

I would like you both to come up so I may present this plaque to you.

□ 1015

We also have a scrapbook of letters from many of your colleagues which we will add to along the line. Now we would be very privileged if we could hear some remarks from both of you.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, and Lou Frey, ladies and gentlemen, as you can observe, Nancy always has the last word, and that is as it should be.

When I answered my name on the roll call this morning, that was the first word I had ever spoken on the floor of this chamber, notwithstanding, as you

say, that I am a congressional brat and that I have been in and around this chamber since I was a very young man, a condition from which I have now fully recovered.

But as I approached the south side of the Capitol, I was reminded of the times when my father brought me here and how awestruck I was by the majesty of this place, of this institution, and the inspiration I took from not only his service but that of you and many others like you who preceded us, and then my chance to serve in the Senate of the United States and to say there were many days when I envied you the rules of this body, especially on the opportunity of leadership to challenge and limit the direction of debate and deliberation. It will always be the high point of my public career that I have had an opportunity to serve in the Congress.

I will not speak further except to say that I believe, as I think you believe, that our constitutional form of presidential government, of congressional government, and judicial oversight is unique in the world. It is very much a continuing process. As you have contributed to its unfolding development, so will our successors. I am greatly honored to be included in this award. I yield the floor to my senior partner.

Ms. KASSEBAUM-BAKER. Thank you. There is an old Russian political adage that says a rooster today, a feather duster tomorrow. There are a few of us here that I could say a hen today. But all of us as feather dusters who are gathered here were gathered, and I think the reason becomes such a unifying experience and pleasure, is because of the friendships formed when one serves in either the United States Senate or the United States House of Representatives. It cuts across party lines.

We may have debated, as it has been said before, against each other against the issues or for the issues, but always remaining friends. It is a tie that does bind.

Secondly, the tie that binds, I believe, is a respect for the institution in which we have served. It is a respect that we should continue to honor. I am so impressed with all that former colleagues are doing to continue that involvement.

So with Howard having said that we always wanted to be able to speak on the House floor, thank you for this opportunity and thank you for this honor.

Mr. FREY. Mr. Speaker, as I said when I began, it is our belief that there are no term limits in public service. Every time I have the privilege to step back on the floor, it is like getting recharged. I love this body. I am proud of my service in the Congress, as each and every one of us are.

We have served our country and we are continuing to serve our country. This is the greatest legislative body in the world. The country is lucky to have a Congress that has carried on for

so many years great traditions and will continue to carry it on.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes our 28th annual report by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Mr. MCHUGH (presiding). Thank you. The Chair thanks the President and again wishes to thank all of the feather dusters, I mean former Members of Congress for their presence here today.

Before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond when the roll was called to give their names to the reading clerks for inclusion on the roll.

Again, thank you all very much for being with us. It is great to see you, each and every one. And we wish you the very best of luck.

The House will stand in recess until 10:35 a.m.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1036

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAMP) at 10 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1273. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1150) "An Act to ensure that federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national or multistate significance, to reform, extend, and eliminate certain agricultural research programs, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1618. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the protection of consumers against "slamming" by telecommunications carriers, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent resolution honoring the sesquicentennial of Wisconsin statehood.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I