

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO
TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 8, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a joint Resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 54. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Missouri-Nebraska Boundary Compact.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1654. An act to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2116. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of extended care services for veterans and to make other improvements in health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1654) "An Act to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal year 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. FRIST, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. BREAUX, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 2116) "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of extended care services for veterans and to make other improvements in health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. SPECTER, Mr. THURMOND, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 791. An Act to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the women's business center program.

S. 1346. An Act to ensure the independence and nonpartisan operation of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

S. 1418. An Act to provide for the holding of court at Natchez, Mississippi, in the same manner as court is held at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and for other purposes.

S. 1769. An Act to continue the reporting requirements of section 2519 of title 18,

United States Code, beyond December 21, 1999, and for other purposes.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES
MOVEMENT

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, last week we discussed on the floor of this Chamber the impact that the livable communities movement will have on the 1999 elections, as well as the year 2000.

It was clearly a critical factor in the elections held just last week. It was my privilege this weekend to visit with hundreds of people in New Jersey which confirmed this realization that such will be the case in the year 2000, as well.

New Jersey, Madam Speaker, is the most densely populated of our States, over 8 million people in such a tiny area. I learned that part of New Jersey in the 12th Congressional District, represented by our colleague the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), is more densely populated than India. Yet, New Jersey is known as the Garden State. And while that may be hard for some to comprehend, it made perfect sense to me as I traveled through the beautiful New Jersey countryside.

Citizens of this State are under no illusions when it comes to the challenge they face in preserving their livability. It was my privilege to hear those challenges discussed at great length while participating in a forum sponsored by Rutgers University and The Courier Times newspaper on the future of South Jersey.

The session took place in Camden, literally in the shadows of the City of Philadelphia, and it clearly illustrated the problems and opportunities for their region. Issues of racial relations and poverty intersected with redevelopment opportunities, affordable housing with its rich history.

Several hundred citizens spent their day focusing on how to craft a vision for their community and how to implement it into action. It was truly inspirational. I look forward to following their progress in their continuing effort to shape and put in place their vision for South Jersey.

Later that day I had the opportunity to participate in a series of forums organized by our colleague the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT). Mon-

mouth County, which is a large part of his district, will likely receive at least 10 percent of the million new people who are expected to be added to New Jersey's population over the next 20 years, over 100,000 people.

The conversation, here again, along with the depth of the commitment, was inspirational. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and his staff had organized visits with several hundred people at four different meetings. They were willing to spend a significant amount of their time on a gorgeous fall afternoon to talk indoors about the future of their communities.

People understood that it was not just enough for New Jersey to be home to the Pines Barrens and have laws on the books. There must actually be a commitment to protect and enhance the million acres of this unique treasure, which some argue is the most significant resource of its kind east of the Mississippi River.

People understood that it was not enough for New Jersey's 566 municipalities to merely be planned and zoned. Those efforts must be reinforced and related to their other partners in their region and then, in turn, harmonized with surrounding regions.

Local interests dominated by the vision of local control will fail. Local control is not meeting their needs today and will be even less effective in the future.

I carried away great optimism for the future of New Jersey, in part because of the State's bipartisan leadership:

The Republican governor, whose second inaugural theme was a livable New Jersey, has entered into an agreement with her administration and a local watchdog agency, New Jersey Future, to monitor New Jersey's executive order on sustainability. The goals and indicators are already in place with benchmarks to follow.

And with a congressional advocate like the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), who did not just organize an impressive series of meetings, he has empaneled his own advisory committee on growth management and the environment while here in Congress he is providing leadership on livable communities.

Livability will be on the national agenda for the year 2000 election and beyond, and it is clear to me New Jersey will be helping lead that charge.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.