

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, June 14, 1999

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 14, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CLIFF STEARNS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

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.

QUALITY OF LIFE IN PORTLAND, OREGON, IS KEY TO GOOD JOBS THAT STAY

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress with a goal to help the Federal Government be a better partner working with State and local governments, the private sector and individual citizens to promote livable communities. In that capacity I am used to people who are confused or are perhaps even hostile to looking at doing things differently. Change is not easy. Some have difficulty imagining different patterns of development in our community.

The latest example of either confusion or hostility was an article that appeared in the New York Times this weekend entitled The Scourge of New Jobs. It was taking my community, Portland, Oregon, to task for supposedly discouraging new jobs by having a modest surcharge on potential increase in jobs as a result of an agreement with the high tech company Intel. The article was replete with errors.

First and foremost, Portland does not limit building permits, although it

does, I think very logically, focus on where building and development should take place. In fact, we have seen over the better part of this decade dramatic increase in building and development in our community. Our area does not limit jobs; in fact, to the contrary. We have had rapid growth in employment in the Portland metropolitan area; over 180,000 jobs since 1990. But what we have found is that the quality of life is the key to attracting good jobs and keeping them in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the sad fact is that development seldom entirely pays for itself through increased sales or property taxes. Indeed, in our community, as in many, when you have industrial expansion like Intel, the strains potentially on schools, public safety, roads and the environment far exceed a modest increase in the property tax. In this case, the local government had agreed to place a limit on the amount of property that could be collected for the new development. In exchange for this limitation there was a thousand-dollar surcharge that was going to be assessed against Intel if it exceeded an additional thousand jobs.

But put that in perspective. We are talking about \$12.5 billion of new investment. We are talking about a \$200 million tax break. If somehow the company increased employment by more than a thousand, that would only be a million dollars to help the local community defer the increased costs. It was clearly a good deal for the company, which is why they jumped at it, and it reflects the fact that we want to have balanced growth, not deteriorate the quality of life for the businesses and the individuals who already live there.

At a time when suburban dwellers are increasingly concerned about the erosion of their quality of life, at a time when small towns across America are struggling to be economically viable and retain their unique identities, when central cities are struggling to come back from years of economic decline and decay, when a town like Atlanta wakes up one day and looks at the price of its unplanned growth, losing job opportunities, for example, in high tech, it makes what we are doing in the Portland metropolitan area worthwhile not just to look at, but to carefully examine.

Mr. Speaker, I would be the last to suggest that this ought to be a cookie-cutter approach that everybody ought to apply, but at a time when the American people demand and deserve more

livable communities, we ought not to ignore any good examples.

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 37 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 (Mr. REGULA) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of Psalm 65.

O God, it is right for us to praise you in Zion and keep our promise to you because you answer prayers. People everywhere will come to you on account of their sins. Our faults defeat us, but you forgive them. Happy are those whom you choose, whom you bring to live in your sanctuary. We shall be satisfied with the good thing of your house, the blessings of your sacred temple. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.