CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

September 25, 2001

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2001, TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2001

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, September 28, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2, 2001, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NETHERCUTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the workers of Northwest Alloys, a company located in Addy, Washington, in the north part of the Fifth Congressional District. Since beginning operations in 1975, Northwest Alloys has become the largest private sector employer in Stevens County. It employs about 350 people. These are good people with good paying jobs and a wide variety of families that support the community of Addy and Stevens County, Washington.

The void that the absence of this company will leave in our communities is immeasurable, because they have supported our schools, they have supported youth activities, community activities, and provided a great resource for northeast Washington State.

The plant at Northwest Alloys in Addy, Washington, is only one of two magnesium smelters in the entire United States, and Northwest Alloys has had a sterling reputation ever since it has been in business over the years. It received OSHA's Voluntary Protection Plan Merit Status one year ago for a comprehensive evaluation of its safety processes and performance. The company recently received Star Status, the highest level of achievement within OSHA's Voluntary Protection Plan, making it one of only three manufacturing locations to do so in Washington State. Safety was their code word, their standard. They worked very, very hard to have a safe manufacturing plant of magnesium.

So I am deeply saddened by the events that have lead to the closure of Northwest Alloys and the impact the closure is having on families and the communities surrounding this facility in our State. But I also remain hopeful that new opportunities will arise out of such adversity. The reason the plant is closing in large measure is because countries like China and Russia have flooded the market with magnesium, and that has put tremendous pressure on community operations like that which is located in Addy in Northwest Alloys.

The employees have been remarkably upbeat; and under the leadership of Jerry Turnbow, they have worked against incredible odds, considering the market situation, production, and energy conditions. They have been fighting a battle to try to get low-cost energy to run this plant, and they

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

LOSS OF NORTHWEST ALLOYS CREATES VOID FOR WASHINGTON STATE