

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, December 18, 2001

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 18, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON 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 3, 2001, 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 not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

MCDONALD'S NAMED RECYCLING LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the McDonald's Corporation, which is headquartered in my district, for its continued leadership in environmental conservation. For over a decade, McDonald's has set the standard for corporate social responsibility. It has been a pioneer in a range of initiatives to reduce solid waste, conserve energy, and promote environmental awareness and conservation here in the United States and around the world.

For its good work, McDonald's has been honored by many, including Keep America Beautiful, the National Audubon Society and Conservation International. It also has received awards from the President's Council on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Now adding to its long track record of achievements, McDonald's has been selected by the National Recycling Coalition for another important environ-

mental award. This award recognizes the company's vision and leadership in proving that recycling really does work.

Back in 1989, McDonald's formed a partnership with the Environmental Defense Fund or EDF, to develop a comprehensive plan for reducing waste. This cooperative effort sparked a kind of revolution in the restaurant industry. In fact, it laid the foundation for a new approach to solving environmental problems: Working partnerships between businesses and environmental organizations.

With EDF's help, McDonald's set out to assess every aspect of its business, looking for opportunities to conserve. In 1990, McDonald's established one of the first corporate "buy recycle" programs. It also initiated an ongoing series of environmentally friendly changes in packaging designs and materials. Two years later, McDonald's became a founding member of the Buy Recycled Business Alliance, a group of businesses dedicated to purchasing recycled products.

The impact of these efforts has been extraordinary. Since 1990, McDonald's has purchased, in the United States, over \$3 billion worth of products made from recycled materials, eliminated 150,000 tons of packaging, and recycled 1 million tons of corrugated cardboard.

Recycling is not the only significant conservation efforts undertaken by McDonald's over the years. This company has expanded its environmental programs to include water conservation, air pollution reduction, rain forest preservation and restoration, protection of domestic natural habitats, and litter reduction. Through partnerships with its suppliers and environmental organizations, it has fostered new conservation technologies, influenced business practices, and supported environmental education in classrooms, communities, and McDonald's restaurants in the U.S. and abroad.

The National Recycling Coalition's award is a fitting recognition for such significant and successful efforts to make the world a better place.

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress dedicated to making

the Federal Government a better partner with our communities, our business leaders, and our individual corporations to make sure that our communities are more livable, where our families are safe, healthy and more economically secure.

For over a century now, organized labor has been a champion of these same goals for families by defending the right to organize and represent themselves by being very active in public policy discussions and the enactment of protective legislation. Last week, in Las Vegas, the national AFL-CIO added their strong voice to achieving their goals for America's working families by promoting the principles of livable communities. It noted that the problems of both society and their members are compounded when our communities are abandoned. Cities are hollowed out by sprawl and the consequences of unmanaged growth. It is harder to travel, find decent affordable housing, it is harder for children to breathe, and even workers to organize.

Their important resolution was advanced by progressive unions like the United Food and Commercial Workers, the Amalgamated Transit Union, the good work of Jobs First, with their staff member, Greg LeRoy.

I would note three important provisions in that resolution where they point out; whereas sprawling development on urban fringes creates new jobs beyond public transit grids, leaving consumers with no choice about how to get to work and undermines transit ridership; and whereas many other central labor bodies and State federations have long advocated for policies now collectively called "smart growth," such as affordable housing, better public transit, school rehabilitation, and the reclamation of brownfields; now, therefore be it resolved, that the AFL-CIO authorize and directs its leadership to actively engage in the emerging public and political debates surrounding urban sprawl and smart growth, asserting labor's rightful role in the national debate about the future of America's cities for the benefit of all working families. Powerful words from a powerful organization dedicated to promoting America's families.

I would note the special leadership of the regional labor leaders, people like Don Turner, the President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, that has been active with the Metropolitan Metropolitan 2020, an organization in Metropolitan Chicago that brings together the community organizing for their future; John Dalrymple, the executive

□ 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.