

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, March 27, 2001

The House met at 12:30 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 395. An act to provide emergency relief to small businesses affected by significant increases in the prices of heating oil, natural gas, propane, and kerosene, and for other purposes.

S. 395. An act to ensure the independence and nonpartisan operation of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-554, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) to the Board of Trustees for the Center for Russian Leadership Development.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. 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.

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

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS CONVENES FIRST BIKE SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress to make the Federal Government a better partner in the creating of more livable communities, communities that are safe, healthy, and economically secure. Today, transportation and energy are issues in every community across America. These problems are the results of countless individual decisions.

Mr. Speaker, this week a group of activists dedicated to making America a better place are gathering here in Washington, D.C. The League of American Bicyclists is convening the first annual Bike Summit. I would like to

congratulate them on their efforts. As the spokesman for the Bipartisan Congressional Bicycle Caucus, I am excited that this bicycle community is coming to Washington, D.C. to make their voice heard.

Cyclists have a long and effective history of advocacy in this country. At the turn of the century, bicycling was fun, fast, convenient; and it was modern. The problem was there was no good place to ride these new-fangled contraptions. As a result, there was increasing demand for new, safe bike routes. In response, the Good Roads Movement was launched here in Washington, D.C. after a successful effort to lobby Congress for a \$10,000 grant to study the possibility of a paved-road system. Well, the rest is history.

Bicycling remains a favorite alternative mode of transportation. While only 1 percent of Americans use bicycles as their primary mode of transportation, studies show that in communities that have good bike facilities, bike lanes and parking, that up to 50 percent of the public living within the 5- to 10-mile range will use it for commuting.

Good bicycling communities rival European communities in terms of cycling participation. Even in my hometown, rainy Portland, Oregon, we are more than double the national average. The league conference is an opportunity for us who hear once again from the bike advocates from around the country on the importance of using cycling as a means of transportation. It does not contribute to pollution or create traffic congestion. A 4-mile bicycle round trip prevents 15 pounds of air pollution, and we have in fact made huge strides with bicycle facilities. We have committed in the last 10 years almost \$2 billion for bike and pedestrian projects, far more than the \$41 million that had been done the 17 previous years.

Mr. Speaker, we need to encourage people to expand these small, meaningful choices in transportation. Worried about OPEC, parking problems, a lack of exercise, simply level the playing field, give the cyclists today an opportunity. There are millions of them around the country who are waiting not only to be heard but to be given a chance to cycle safely in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of this Congress to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with advocates and industry representatives from their districts this week, not just in your of-

fice. Thursday night the Bike League is hosting a reception from 5 to 7 in Room 268 of the Rayburn; and on Friday the Bicycle Caucus, the Washington Area Bicycle Association, and the League of American Bicyclists will be hosting the first Bike Caucus Ride of the 107th Congress for Members and their staff. It is a fun 7-mile ride. It is a perfect way to get to know your constituents and have a better feel for the community in which we work here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, what about Members who do not have their bicycle here yet? No excuse. Contact us and we will make sure that there is a bicycle available for Members and their staff. It would be a great idea also for Members of Congress to make sure that they have renewed their membership in the bicycle caucus before somebody asks them to do so. Last year we had almost 80 Members.

Get ready to ride and have fun, but also help your own community with the serious side because cycling is important for recreation and exercising. It is a way for more children to be able to get to school on their own. It is an excellent transportation choice for communities for adults; and it is an excellent way, if we do our part, to make our communities more livable, more safe and economically secure.

TAX RELIEF THIS YEAR

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to the current debate about retroactive tax cuts for all American families. Some of my colleagues may have missed some important developments over the past few days that reflect what I believe, Mr. Speaker, is a major shift in the conventional wisdom about President Bush's tax cut proposal. Forgive me for being indelicate, Mr. Speaker, but everyone today seems to be singing the President's tune.

Mr. Speaker, first our Democratic colleagues said that the President's tax cut proposal was a risky scheme. My colleagues may remember last year that most of them voted against a tax cut that was just 70 percent of the total that they are now supporting as an alternative to the President's plan. They may not want us to remember their old

□ 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.