

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, later today this body will consider the BESTEA bill. This bill provides the necessary resources to improve America's aging and decrepit infrastructure.

While today we will hear discussions of roads and transit and funding formulas, I want to point out a lesser-known feature of this important bill, environmental enhancements. BESTEA significantly increases funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program, for the transportation enhancements program, and for the recreational trails program. The measure creates new transit enhancement programs and encourages alternative modes of transportation such as biking. In fact, BESTEA even works to improve compliance with the Clean Air Act.

Mr. Speaker, this bill proves we can balance America's economic and environmental needs. For the environment, for highway safety, for job growth and for infrastructure improvements, I am a strong supporter of this bill; and I hope my colleagues will join me with their support.

LET US HAVE FAIR COMPETITION IN THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, with all the talk about the supposed benefits of competition in the electric power industry, I say let us have really fair electric competition.

Many consumers now enjoy the benefits of a municipally owned electric system, such as low rates and high standards and open governance and direct corporate democracy. Private power marketers should have to be as democratic and open as public power. This means they should;

First, comply with State and local open meeting laws;

Second, provide for a publicly elected board of directors;

Third, permit the public election of all chief executive officers;

Fourth, hold public hearings on budgets;

Fifth, require compliance with State and local government conflict of interest regulations; and

Sixth, not deduct advertising expenses from their income taxes.

Really competitive power marketers would put into practice the high democratic standards of public power.

MUGGED BY REALITY

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the intellectual evolution in the typical American's political life

usually takes several years. Now, most people start out relatively liberal; but they eventually see the error of their ways and become more conservative upon realizing that left-wing programs simply do not work. In the famous phrase, they are mugged by reality.

But there is one way to speed up the process. It is an event that almost 100 percent will guarantee success. Take a liberal, subject him to an IRS audit and presto, you soon hear some very conservative thoughts coming out of their mouths. All of a sudden, their beloved Federal Government is no longer seen as their friend. All of a sudden, the Federal Government now looks like the last place to look for fairness. All of a sudden, dealing with a massive Federal bureaucracy is not such a wonderful, wholesome experience after all; and all of a sudden, what looks so great in the abstract starts to look silly, illogical, out of touch and quite menacing indeed when reality hits.

Mr. Speaker, it is an obvious truth that if liberals were audited by the IRS, the Democrat Party would cease to exist almost overnight.

VOTE YES ON H.R. 1151, CREDIT UNION ACCESS BILL

(Mr. KANJORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today one out of four Americans will have an opportunity to keep their eye on the House of Representatives as we will have an opportunity to take up H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Access Bill which will allow 70 million Americans to exercise their right of choice for financial services in this country.

I want to compliment the 207 sponsors and cosponsors on both sides of the aisle of this legislation. I further want to compliment the bipartisan spirit of the Speaker, the minority leader and minority whip, Mr. BONIOR, who sponsored the bill, the chairman of the Committee on Rules and, most particularly, the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services who, working together, have shown what a bipartisan effort can do in the House of Representatives when the job has to get done.

Today, as we pass under suspension H.R. 1151 and send it on to the Senate, we will be performing an act that is truly American in the best spirit of the cooperative movement of the credit union movement of America. All I ask is all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to express their aid and assistance for the credit union movement by voting yes on H.R. 1151.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2400, BUILDING EFFICIENT SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND EQUITY ACT OF 1998

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call

up House Resolution 405 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 405

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2400) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and the amendments made in order by this resolution and shall not exceed two hours and 30 minutes, with two hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill and the amendment printed in part 1 of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part 2 of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the first time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 1 hour.