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Filename:CNNbike

Washington, D.C. 20064

Mr. Brian Lamb
CNN
111 Massachusetts Av NW
Washington DC 20001

December 9, 1991

Dear Mr. Lamb,

I always watch your programs with great admiration because you are not only very intelligent but also endowed with a lot of common sense. May be the news division is different from your programs; nevertheless I would like to bring the following to your attention.

Last Sunday, Dec. 8, I watched a short spot on the CNN Headline News reporting about the transportation bill and its implications. It started out explaining that 14 ct a gallon is used for the transportation fund, observing that many bridges are in need of repair, if not replacement, and then went into alternate modes of transportation. It showed some of the new subways and light rail systems. Lastly mentioned: magnetic levitation, computerized traffic lights and on-board video systems for city navigation. It is my opinion that these three are of limited value for actual alleviation of traffic congestion, with the exception of the computerized traffic lights which may stuff a few more cars in a system if it is overcrowded. Levitation is a pipe dream similar to medieval alchemists looking for gold. What was however clearly missing in this program was a very simple solution for short distance transportation: the bicycle.

I live at a distance of about 7 miles from my work and while transportation by car takes about 25 min, the same is done by bike in about half an hour; a difference in time which is of little importance. I was struck by the fact that the program did not mention this possibility at all, despite the fact that the transportation bill leaves it up to the jurisdictions to spend a small amount of the money to this form of transportation.

I hope that you may be interested in dedicating one of your programs in the near future to bicycle riding as a convenient, healthy and cheap form of transportation. There are several American cities that have paid attention to this possibility, in particular Seattle, Wash and Washington DC. I also can provide you, if you wish, with the Delft-plan. Delft is a medium-sized city in the Netherlands where a plan was devised and executed to improve bicycle circulation inside the city under a Government grant. The resulting final report gives some interesting ideas on what can be accomplished.

Sincerely yours



CC:

WABA, Silverman

Rails to Trails, Harnick

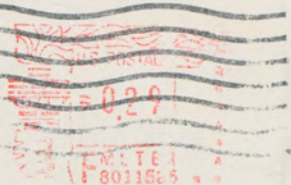
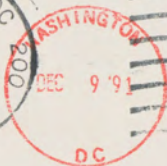
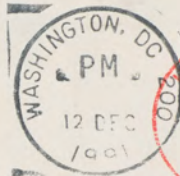
Metrop.Branch Trail, Hare/Kane

City of Delft, Public Works Dir.



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