

more County, are urged, along with your colleagues in the Maryland delegation, in all your wisdom and judgment to exert every influence of your high office to see that top priority, no less than first priority, is given a second harbor tunnel.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

Mr. FALLON. Thank you very much, Mr. Dewberry.

Mr. Howard.

Mr. HOWARD. Mr. Dewberry.

Mr. DEWBERRY. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOWARD. This legislation before us now is, in a sense, permissive legislation, is it not?

Mr. DEWBERRY. Correct.

Mr. HOWARD. If the bill is passed as it is, then it would still be possible for the State authorities and the administration of the State to not construct this bridge?

Mr. DEWBERRY. Absolutely.

Mr. HOWARD. However, if this were eliminated from the authorization, then the Congress here would be dictating to the State, because then they would not—even if a future referendum or something should determine the people of Maryland do want this bridge, they would not be permitted to do so. So we would, in a sense, by deleting any part of this bill, be dictating to the State of Maryland what they may do or may not do.

It has been said many, many times, the idea even with the Interstate System is for the Federal Government to provide money, but that the local agencies, the States themselves, and their bureaus, the administrations, the house of delegates or the State senate, would be the ones that would determine where the need is. And we would take this away from the State if we were to eliminate some part of the bill. So there would not be irreparable harm done by including everything in the bill and letting the State make its decision; is that correct?

Mr. DEWBERRY. That is correct and Mr. Anderson is not asking the committee to delete any part of the bill. He simply wants to be on record as the county executive of the largest county of the State of Maryland as to his feelings where the emphasis should be placed and the priorities placed among the four projects that will be authorized by this bill that is before us now. He is not asking that any parts of it be deleted, but simply wants to be on record as to the priorities.

Mr. HOWARD. More or less speaking, then, to the State officials, rather than to the Congress?

Mr. DEWBERRY. Exactly, to the State officials, and as he said in his statement, to ask our congressional delegation to exert all the influence of their high office to see that the top priority is directed toward a tunnel.

Mr. HOWARD. But this reference to prior discussions by other representatives of the State, who have come before the committee for the deletion of the parallel bridge, that by passing the bill as is would still leave it up to the State to make a determination?

Mr. DEWBERRY. Yes, we recognize that, and this is what Mr. Anderson has said in his statement.

Mr. HOWARD. Thank you.

Mr. FALLON. Are there any question on my left?

Thank you very much, Mr. Dewberry, for coming this morning.