

rightness with which Mr. Prisk has made his presentations and responded to all inquiries raised in the course of the proceedings.

We look forward to his continued advice and counsel and further information as these hearings go forward; and so, Mr. Chairman, the public hearing for today is concluded.

Again, Dr. Huelke, our deepest appreciation. I hope you will not mind if the members of the staff, or the Chair, on behalf of the committee and members of the staff, keep in contact with you for further evaluation or interpretation of any other material and testimony which may come before us.

We commend you for your dedicated service, which obviously is far beyond the call of plain duty, and may very well result in the reduction of the type of accidents, type of fatalities, mutilations and injuries that have been so needlessly suffered in the past. We thank you, Doctor.

These hearings will now recess, subject to call at a future day to be announced later. Before we adjourn for the morning, I will be pleased to yield to the ranking minority leader, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Cramer.

Mr. CRAMER. I have a couple of questions I wanted to ask before these witnesses leave.

Doctor, I understand that you showed some slides indicating trees planted, for instance, in the median strip. I gather it was your conclusion that, in many instances, those are traffic hazards and can cause accidents. Is that right?

Dr. HUELKE. Yes. No matter how close they are to the roadway, whether they are in the median or elsewhere, on the right side—I did not specifically show a film of trees in the median; but Michigan, especially the northern Michigan area, is notorious for this.

Mr. CRAMER. You say they are notorious for trees planted in the middle of the median strip?

Dr. HUELKE. Yes.

Mr. CRAMER. Now, is it your opinion that, as a general rule, the planting of trees in the median strip, so far as safety is concerned, is a mistake?

Dr. HUELKE. Yes. Especially if they are allowed to grow up. One concept I had one time, if I might interrupt—

Mr. CRAMER. You cannot keep it from growing up.

Dr. HUELKE. This is the concept. I was talking to one man from another county than ours, and he was complaining about trees in general, and one of their problems is they do not have enough tree-farm area. I said, "Well, your expressway in your region has a median that is so wide, why do you not use that for the tree farm? Also, these little saplings will be very good impact attenuation devices if you would happen to crash into the tree farm. Then when you need to move them, to put them in subdivisions, or wherever you would, take them out of the median." But you never allow them to grow there permanently.

Mr. CRAMER. I would be the last to suggest you are not fully aware of the esthetics and beauty and necessity of accomplishing beauty wherever possible. But, in your opinion, if it is a choice between beauty and planting trees in the median strip as relates to beauty and as compared to safety, you would recommend against it?

Dr. HUELKE. Not trees.

Mr. CRAMER. What?