

Now, jumping over to the Maryland side of the Capital Beltway, this is a sign installation which you will find along its 42 miles. The sign here is mounted, not on a steel pole, but on an 8- to 12-inch steel I-beam. The size of the I-beam will depend on the size of the sign. This particular one happens to be 8 inches, and again it is embedded in concrete. Concrete can be as much as 5 feet into the ground.

Notice that the road in this area is fairly straight. There is a drainage ditch here and fairly steep backslope [indicating].

Mr. BLATNIK. If you hit that drainage ditch, it would be pretty hard to pull the wheel when it is soft. It would be pretty hard to pull a wheel out of it.

Mr. PRISK. Yes. Certain designs on the roadside call for a rather rounded section of the ditch, flat-bottom-type ditch. This appears to be a V-ditch.

Mr. BLATNIK. Would it lead a car right on into the sharp end of the guardrail first before hitting the sign; is that very likely to happen?

Mr. PRISK. This very well could happen. That is true.

Mr. O'HARA. As regards this particular sign, following is a photograph I took in December 1966.

