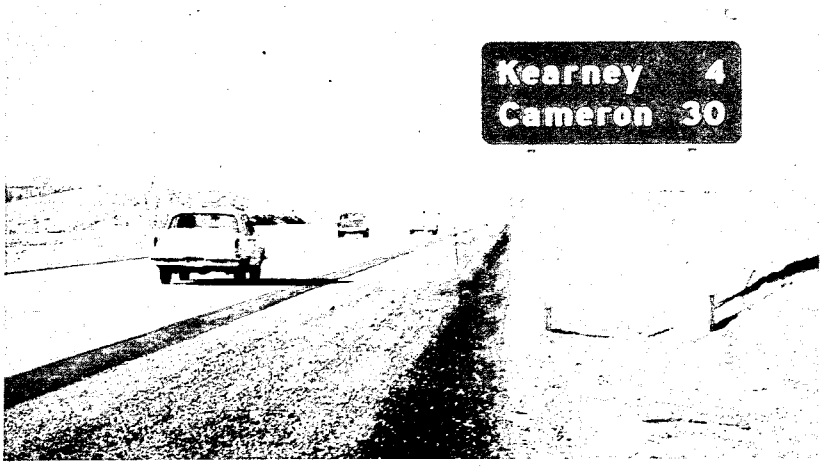
Mr. CONSTANDY. Congressman, we will, later in this presentation, show just briefly this concept of breakaway signs. Next week we would hope to develop that in greater detail through witnesses who will appear from Texas Transportation Institute. They have done research on the development of the breakaway signs. That is one form that is being uesd.



Mr. PRISK. We proceed. Here is another type sign that is useful in orienting the motorist in his distance to destinations. But it need not be up on concrete footings of that size and magnitude. This, again, is the old base problem of getting something in line with the slope.

Mr. RICKER. This illustrates something else. That sign does not have to be at any particular location, and by moving it longitudinally along the roadway it could have been placed behind that cut slope at a relatively safe place; even moving it out slightly and putting it beyond that cut slope would have been protecting it.

Mr. CONSTANDY. Thank you. Here we could have safety at no cost, no additional cost.

Mr. RICKER. Right.

Mr. PRISK. And it could be handled, of course, in another way by moving laterally, as the auto polish sign is located.

Mr. RICKER. The point I want to make is the longitudinal placement oftentimes provides the safety equally as well as laterally. And it can be done simply in the matter of staking out the proper location for the sign.

Mr. PRISK. It would not make a bit of difference if it was 3.5 miles to Kearney or 29 miles to Cameron, I am sure.

Mr. WILSON. Several years ago when we started putting these signs up on limited access highways we tied them fairly close.

If you will notice on this one, a truck merely driving along the shoulder—and they do this occasionally—will damage the sign; even though it will not strike the post or anything, it will damage the sign to the point where it has to be replaced. This, to us, became quite a maintenance problem. You know that the slope of a shoulder allows a truck to tilt over on about a 5-percent slope and maybe more in other