

We have seen scores and scores of photographs of automobiles smashed into these big concrete abutments. Are these necessary structurally?

Mr. McALPIN. Absolutely not, Congressman. They have in the past hooked up somewhat with tradition, I presume. This is a peculiarity of this structure that bridge designers felt to be necessary; they are not necessary structures. They have been eliminated on all new designs in the State of New York. Our remedial program, which is included in the \$47 million program underway at the present time, is to remove all of these and provide continuity of transition between the approach rails and the bridge rails. These are going, just as fast as we can provide contracts and forces and funds to take them off.

Mr. McEWEN. As we have sat through days of viewing pictures similar to this, Mr. McAlpin, it seemed to some of us it took a while to make the transition from horse and buggy, if you will, to the automobile. Now the esthetics of this tiered abutment had totally escaped me as a motorist traveling the interstate at 65 miles an hour. I have not enjoyed the beauty of these, and had not even noticed what they were until we got these slides and looked at these objects and saw the damage they had caused the vehicles.

I fail to appreciate, and I think our committee agrees what the purpose of the esthetic design is when you are traveling at 65 miles an hour. You do not have time to look at the beauty of an abutment. It is a hazardous object when it is struck and I am delighted to know the department is now embarking on a program of eliminating these objects.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. McAlpin, is the \$47 million all State money?

Mr. McALPIN. No; there is Federal participation on the basis of type of Federal moneys involved. We have had on the safety improvement program the opportunity to go in on Interstate and we have an Interstate traffic formula on the A, B, C, or the regular systems. We match under that formula.

Mr. McCARTHY. What is the share, roughly in terms of Federal funds and State funds, of that \$47 million?

Mr. McALPIN. I am sorry, I cannot tell you. A lot of it we are concentrating on our Interstates in light of new standards. There is a great deal of regular 50-50 money. What this proportion is, I am not prepared to say.

Mr. McCARTHY. So it would be over half Federal money?

Mr. McALPIN. I cannot even say this, Congressman, I am sorry.