

as I understand your testimony, there are still some questions or areas of doubt in this general area; so if this was adopted as a standard by a vote, is there not a tendency for it to become fixed and people stop thinking about it?

Mr. E. M. JOHNSON. No, Mr. Cleveland; I believe it is just the opposite way. I do not know of anything that we have put out, whether it be a standard or policy or whether it be a committee report, that does not receive virtually continuous consideration by the various committees interested in those subjects.

In fact, we have a great deal of trouble with so many revisions coming in that it is difficult to handle them and keep the publications current.

Mr. A. E. JOHNSON. The yellow book was issued as a committee report very similar to many of our publications because it was made up of comments and observations by a special committee. It was not a matter worked on over a short period of time, of a committee that had members from all the State highway departments. It is something that went through several years of study, development, study draft, and redraft.

Here is one of the very important policy publications that AASHO puts out, which is called the blue book, which is the bible for rural design. That thing is a very detailed scientific thing that was probably 4 or 5 years in the development.

After it has been developed, then it is sent to the States and it is voted on as a policy, and it becomes actually the bible for designing highways.

There is a difference as to the type of report that is put out, the effort that is put into it, the time, and how many States participated.

Mr. W. MAY. Is there anything particularly new in the yellow book?

Mr. E. M. JOHNSON. I do not think that this is particularly new; but I think it has emphasized the various things you have emphasized in your study and presentation.

Mr. W. MAY. It is a compilation of those best thoughts and various items?

(Mr. Blatnik assumed the chair.)

Mr. E. M. JOHNSON. It puts it in front of all the highway personnel, I think, in a way that has not been heretofore achieved.

Mr. W. MAY. Thank you.

I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman, unless some of the witnesses have additional comments to make.

Mr. E. M. JOHNSON. I would like to make one, if I may.

Mr. BLATNIK. Please.

Mr. E. M. JOHNSON. I believe you are aware that we are as deeply concerned about this situation as anyone and are taking actions to try to correct these things. And I believe you will see many improvements during the next few years, and we do appreciate the opportunity to come here and discuss these things with you, sir.

Mr. BLATNIK. I want you gentlemen to know, too, that we are certainly mindful of the enormity and complexity of this peacetime public work project, the largest public works project ever undertaken by anyone. I think we are all agreed, are we not, there is always room for improvement.