Mr. CAREY. From the Congress; yes.

Mr. BROWN. Let me ask you the next question.

What can they count on from the administration? You see, Congress can authorize the money and can even appropriate the money, but the administration, the Bureau of the Budget being the determining body, doesn't have to spend it, does it?

Mr. CAREY. No. But if it were set up on a direct appropriation that might be true, and it wouldn't be true if you legislated, in effect, a mandatory payment into a trust fund. There isn't very much that even the Budget Bureau can do about trust funds.

Mr. BROWN. This is not what you are talking about here. You are not talking about trust funds, as I understand it. You are talking about the appropriation by the Congress. This was under your third possibility, the use of general revenues.

You suggest that the Congress should appropriate the money, make available the money, and precommit itself for 3 years.

Mr. CAREY. Into a trust fund. That is what it says.

Mr. BROWN. What about the administration's control of the ability to put general revenue funds into a trust fund? This is general revenue. This is not a tax that goes directly into a trust fund. This is general revenue appropriation, as I understand, and, as I understand, there is a distinction. Will the administration have no control over this?

Mr. CAREY. The administration in the short run wouldn't have control. The administration would have a voice, however, at, let's assume, 3-year intervals to reconsider both the mechanism of funding and the merit and scale, and dimension, of the funds.

So we would have our lick at it at the same time the Congress did, if this kind of an alternative were adopted. The administration, the executive branch, wouldn't be completely out of the action any more than the Congress would.

Mr. BROWN. You are avoiding the point I am trying to hit on, of course, and that is whether or not the administration would have control in the final analysis over the expenditure of the funds that are either within the trust fund or the placement of those funds in the trust fund.

Mr. CAREY. I see what you mean. I am sorry.

Mr. BROWN. The President did not control the expenditure of funds under the highway trust fund?

Mr. CAREY. He had something to do with the rate of commitment of funds under the highway trust fund. But I don't think he would have any control over particular highway projects. I don't think the administration wants any part of control over the grants and contracts that the Corporation would make.

Mr. BROWN. He had a slowdown of the expenditure of highway trust funds, did he not?

Mr. CAREY. Yes, sir.

Mr. BROWN. Is that possible in this; that is, in the recomendations you are making, or considering here?

Mr. CAREY. I can't see that kind of control here, Congressman.

Mr. BROWN. I do think it is a point of some interest because it makes a difference to me as a Member of Congress whether you are expecting Congress to authorize an open-ended expenditure of money, and