

Mr. PICKLE (presiding). Mr. Secretary, if we could just accomplish the speed on these high-speed ground transportation projects with the speed with which you have delivered your testimony this morning, we would have the problem solved.

Secretary BOYD. Sometimes I think it would be better not to have the fastest tongue in the East. [Laughter.]

Mr. PICKLE. We did appreciate your testimony and we are glad that you are here.

Now, I realize that you must go to another meeting shortly, and we will respect your time. If you and your associates will help us to keep you on schedule, why, we would appreciate it. But as I understand it, Mr. Lang and Dr. Nelson will stay for further questioning.

Secretary BOYD. Yes, sir.

Mr. PICKLE. I want to make clear that what you are asking for first, you are simply asking for an extension of the bill this committee and the Congress passed about 2½ years ago, and you are asking for a 2-year extension. Have you added in the measure other things that would be different other than the straight extension?

Secretary BOYD. There is one amendment we would propose, Mr. Chairman, which would have to do with the authorization to purchase land for test facilities. I understand, or let me say this, our lawyers are concerned about the authority contained in the original act for us to purchase or lease land for use as a test facility for the high-speed equipment which we must have if we are going to pursue this program.

I also understand that there is some feeling on the part of the committee that that was clearly authorized in the original legislation, that that was clearly the intent of the committee, and all we are concerned with is being sure that when we move to set up a test facility by purchase or lease of land that we are not violating the law.

Mr. PICKLE. Now, I was a member of the committee when this matter was brought to our attention and in which we put a provision in the law. The intent primarily was that the Department of Commerce then and the Department of Transportation now, would not be acquiring any railroad or railroad facilities as such. You weren't getting into the railroad business or the management of railroads. Is that the intent of your Department at this time? You have no intention of buying a railroad, railroad company?

Secretary BOYD. No, sir.

Mr. PICKLE. In no shape, form, or fashion?

Secretary BOYD. No, sir.

Mr. PICKLE. Then the reason for your section (c) being in the measure then would be primarily to participate in demonstration projects to find better answers to the overall high-speed ground transportation problems, and it is not for the operation or maintaining of any kind of railroad or railroad system; is that correct?

Secretary BOYD. It is strictly for research and development and it is not to engage in operating a railroad.

Mr. PICKLE. I notice your testimony said that this particular amendment would not change in any way the prohibition now in the act against the Secretary's acquisition of any interests in any line or of any railroad.

Secretary BOYD. That is correct, Mr. Chairman. One of the major purposes of this act and of our efforts under it is to provide through