

in cars but from the Penn Central's point of view I think on this project they have really demonstrated they want to move ahead and not hold back.

Mr. PICKLE. Is Mr. Minor still here, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. MINOR. Yes.

Mr. PICKLE. I don't propose to call you to the stand now, but after other witnesses are finished I would like to ask Mr. Minor some questions.

Mr. DEVINE. I want to compliment the gentleman. The absence of a prepared statement certainly did not bother your testimony. Thank you very much.

Mr. JONES. Thank you, Mr. Devine.

Mr. FRIEDEL. Thank you.

FURTHER STATEMENT OF ROBERT W. MINOR

Mr. PICKLE. If Mr. Minor will take the stand I would like to question him briefly. I was saying, I thought you were Mr. Minor. I did agree that the high-speed rail system properly was the most economical and probably held the best hope for us to economically move people and, therefore, we must pursue our efforts on it now.

On page 2 of your statement—

Mr. MINOR. Yes, sir.

Mr. PICKLE (continuing). You point out that you have dedicated your best interests, assigned your top engineers and technicians and spent a substantial amount of money to help assure the success of this program.

Yesterday I was handed a little pamphlet of "The Case of the Vanishing Passenger Train," which led one of the wire services to prepare a feature story which said the passenger train was going if not gone and the railroad companies were shedding no tears over it. Does this represent the sentiment of your organization?

Mr. MINOR. No, sir.

Where there is a public need for rail transportation, demonstrated public need capable of supporting rail transportation, we are all for it, and I think the best evidence of that is the fact that we intend to spend and have spent already a substantial part of \$50 million in this program.

Mr. PICKLE. I thought you testified it was around \$32?

Mr. MINOR. \$32 so far, we have \$17 more to go.

Mr. PICKLE. That was going to be my additional question, \$17 you plan.

Mr. MINOR. Yes, sir.

Mr. PICKLE. During the pursuit of this project?

Mr. MINOR. Yes, sir; that is correct.

Mr. PICKLE. I am glad to hear that. One reason I ask you that, 2 years ago I had some rather heated conversations with a representative of the Penn Central and I had the feeling then that your official, I hope it wasn't you—

Mr. MINOR. I don't think so, Mr. Congressman.

Mr. PICKLE. I had the feeling then that they just more or less represented the fact that we were raising questions about what the company or the lack of things that the Penn Central and other railroad com-