

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY ACT—1968

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1968

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ROADS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10:05 a.m., in room 2167, Rayburn Building, Hon. John C. Kluczynski, chairman of the subcommittee, presiding.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. The subcommittee will come to order.

Today we begin highway hearings for the year 1968. This is a most important year insofar as the highway program is concerned.

We have before us a number of reports that were requested by the Congress from the Department of Transportation on the future of the highway program, our highway needs, and the overall cost of the Interstate System. The backbone of this highway program has been and still is the ABC program.

So today, as we undertake what I anticipate will ultimately be lengthy hearings on highway matters, it is most appropriate that we begin with the need for the continuation of our ABC program and for its future authorization.

I anticipate that before we have concluded hearings on all the highway matters pending before this subcommittee we will have covered in detail the problems facing the highway program, and I hope we will then be in a position to provide by legislation the solution to most of these problems.

At this time I recognize the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Cramer.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the indulgence of the committee for just a minute. I would like to outline what I consider to be some of the problem areas that I think these hearings ought to go into, this being, as I understand it, the beginning of the hearing.

I firmly believe this is a year of decision relating to highway construction in America. The program today is in a state of crisis. The ups and downs, cutbacks, the yo-yo program, must come to an end.

Frankly I am becoming more and more in favor of legislation making the trust fund inviolate, from being used for budgetary manipulation purposes. This last cutback I think best evidences the fact that executive efforts, or, in effect, misuse of the fund, in my opinion, has resulted in substantial discrimination between States, and has done great damage to the program.

I put in the Record yesterday, February 19, my comments relating to it. They appear starting on page 81136. I cite a couple of examples of discrimination.