

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. I am chairman of a Subcommittee on Small Business, and I have always been looking after the small businessman. I came from a small business family all these years, and I have always tried to take care of that small man who needs help. The big fellow can take care of himself. I have said many times these cutbacks hurt the small contractor; they force him out of business, thus eliminating competition and forcing costs even higher.

Your statement certainly bears me out. We are very happy to have you here, and you have helped to convince me that I have been right all these years.

Any questions? Mr. Chairman.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Armstrong, I had the pleasure of visting the garden spot of New Mexico, Roswell, and met with your contractors. You mentioned the State of Maryland being severely cheated. I hope it is not because I am chairman of this committee that they singled out Maryland to get the worst treatment.

However, I had quite a few conferences and correspondence with the Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Public Roads, and I have received a letter from them, which I will make part of the record at a later part of this hearing, telling us that we didn't have to pay any attention to the figures in the directive that came out from the Department of Transportation; that if we could put more work under contract than the directive figure, well, they would honor these applications.

I am not sure about the future of the program in Maryland at this time, but certainly we will follow up on their commitment to us, to pay no attention, that these were just guidelines and they were very flexible.

So I do not know whether that is going to settle it or confuse us further. Certainly I hope by the time these hearings are over that we can get a firm commitment some way or another for all the States.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Mr. Wright, the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Armstrong, I just want to express my thanks as one member of the committee for your concise, clear, and lucid statement. You described to us very forcefully what has been happening and its effect on the highway-building industry and the ultimate cost.

Just by way of comment, I would like to say, while this talk is going on about the mistreating of various States, as long as you have got Tom Morris up here, I do not think anybody is going to get by with mistreating New Mexico.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Mr. Dorn.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say that we are happy to have Mr. Armstrong here. Of course I want to welcome my distinguished and able colleague before the committee, Mr. Walker. I say to Mr. Armstrong that Mr. Walker is an outstanding man for New Mexico and the country.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Mr. Cramer.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Chairman, I too, want to thank Mr. Armstrong for helpful, factual information that you made available to this committee, and also to welcome our colleague before the committee; both of you representing the great State of New Mexico.

For the purpose of the record, I have looked over the exhibits that you made available and made a tabulation of them as to the number