

Mr. BRIDWELL. Mr. Cramer, this may be a matter of semantics, but the trust fund will obviously support the authorization of \$250 million a year for the years requested in addition to the authorizations we are recommending for the Interstate System. So in that sense it does not take away from the Interstate System.

Mr. CRAMER. Well, you have to reduce what you are requesting for Interstate because you are requesting all those other things; right?

Mr. BRIDWELL. Well, that logically follows, then, if you take away ABC you can make more money available for Interstate.

Mr. CRAMER. Let's get to ABC. That is an interesting subject. A lot of States have asked for increases in the authorization for ABC and we did have \$25 million for a considerable period of time. We got to the billion. Your recommendation is against an increase related to ABC system; is that right?

Secretary BOYD. Yes, sir.

Mr. CRAMER. Would you oppose this committee increasing ABC authorizations?

Secretary BOYD. Yes, sir.

Mr. CRAMER. Isn't it true that is where some of the chronic problems are, and it is obvious that ABC has been downgraded for years, as compared to Interstate, for instance?

Mr. BRIDWELL. We, of course, are asking in effect for an increase in ABC, Mr. Cramer, by the request of the \$250 million for TOPICS program, because that would be applied to what we usually refer to as primary, secondary, and urban extensions of primary and secondary. That got kind of fouled up. Let me say that again. The \$250 million would be for the urban extensions of primary and secondary. So it is an increase in funds for ABC.

Mr. CRAMER. Your bill, of course, would permit expenditure of funds on any city street even though it is not a part of the Federal-aid system; right?

Mr. BRIDWELL. That is correct.

Mr. CRAMER. So actually that is another—could be termed another diversion from the trust fund so far as it relates to Federal-aid highways presently designated?

Secretary BOYD. Yes, sir, if one desired to so characterize it. I am at a loss to understand this business of diversion from the trust fund because the trust fund, as I understood it, was set up for the Federal-aid highway system. And the Federal-aid highway system is a part of a national system and the whole purpose of the Topics program is to increase the utilization and efficiency of that highway system.

Mr. CRAMER. Well, these roads are not on the system that we are talking about and as I recall, the funding act that sets up the trust fund specifically restricts expenditure of those trust funds to Federal-aid highways. How are you going to get around that?

Secretary BOYD. Designation as a part of the system.

Mr. CRAMER. As I read your bill it doesn't provide any such designation.

Secretary BOYD. I will have to provide you an answer for the record. I am sure legal counsel has advised us on this.