

You get beautification under bonus provisions, but you are not getting it under the Beautification Act because of a lack appropriations and so forth.

Secretary BOYD. We have taken no position on this. As a result of your question, we will study it and provide you with an answer on what the provision is.

Mr. CRAMER. I would appreciate that very much.

I have some other questions, but I will yield to the other members at this time. Thank you very much.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. The gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr. Edmondson.

Mr. EDMONDSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Secretary, I would like to ask you initially with regard to your highway safety program whether you regard your authorization request on highway safety as minimum figures for an effective highway safety program in the future, or whether they represent in your view an ideal figure for activity in the future?

Secretary BOYD. Clearly a minimum figure, Mr. Edmondson. I think this is an area, without any regard to the human side of this thing, as an economic investment, that is one of the best payoff programs that the Federal Government is sponsoring. That is, in terms of return on investment.

Mr. EDMONDSON. At what level do you think we would be providing authorizations for highway safety if you were operating on ideal programs? If we were to realize the maximum economic and human life return on our program how much greater an annual authorization figure would you have in this bill, do you think?

Secretary BOYD. I would say 33 percent.

Mr. EDMONDSON. In other words, this in your view is just about a third below what an ideal program would be?

Secretary BOYD. Given the present ability of our bureau to deal with the program and the allocation of the money, I would say "Yes." Ultimately I would think that figure would be low. But for this immediate period, I would say that it is about right.

Mr. EDMONDSON. I would like to say, as one member of the committee, I think this is an area where some very important and significant things are being done in the States in cooperation with the Federal Government, even though you have been operating on a bobtailed budget. I certainly hope we will be successful in securing the authorization figure that you recommended.

Secretary BOYD. I think with each year of experience, Mr. Edmondson, we will develop more and more information which will more clearly justify the value of this program.

Mr. EDMONDSON. I would like to turn secondly to the beautification authorization figures that you have supported in your testimony and ask you if you regard them as an ideal level or as a minimum level for an effective beautification program?

Secretary BOYD. Minimum level. This is just enough to keep life in the body.

Mr. EDMONDSON. What higher figure do you think we should have for the beautification program if we had an effective or an ideal beautification program operating?