

I have not asked the State highway commission for an official vote of endorsement for the problem.

Mr. HARSHA. Well, without reflecting upon the merits of your proposal in any way, I am a little bit concerned about the Committee getting into the position of ordering specific extensions of specific highways.

I think the committee probably can extend the total mileage on the Interstate System and then apportion it to have the Department of Transportation report under their formula to the State, but I think it is better for the States to determine where that additional apportionment should go.

Mr. PICKLE. Well, Mr. Harsha, I will obtain a statement from the highway officials for this committee as to their recommendation or their priority.

Now, it is a matter they have discussed for some time and whether they have ever taken an official vote on it I do not know. They know there is the need, but whether they will put it at the top of their list I am not certain.

I will get a written statement from the commission for you and the committee.

Mr. HARSHA. Well, to my knowledge with one exception the Committee has been in the position of where it has specifically authorized an extension of a certain route. I think this is left up to the States to do that apportionment or location of highways.

If we get into that field you can see where we are going to have 435 Members asking to extend their specific routes. We are going to get into a can of worms.

Mr. PICKLE. I certainly agree and the State highway engineer will testify to this point in a few minutes.

Mr. HARSHA. Thank you.

I have no further questions.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Any further questions?

Mr. Edmondson, the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. EDMONDSON. I want to compliment the gentleman on a very fine statement. I have not had an opportunity to read all of it but I know he always makes a very persuasive case.

There is just one part I want to take issue on with him in a gentlemanly and friendly way. I cannot understand why anybody would want to drive across Florida to California and really see the beautiful country would go that far south when he had Interstate 40 that would take him right across the heartland of America, across Oklahoma and not have to eat quite as much dust as they would in that part of the country.

Mr. PICKLE. The gentleman makes a good point. If he had been here a little earlier, I made reference to the fact that our Interstate 35 System has a loop going from Dallas, to Denver, towards Oklahoma, only a few miles away from your promised land.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Mr. Pickle, it has been a pleasure to have you before the committee. We thank you for the statement you have given the committee and I am sure every member of it will go over your full statement.

Mr. PICKLE. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and all the members.