

Do you not really think it is important to finish the System within a reasonable period of time without lengthening it out further with a grab by mass transit for money?

Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Cramer, it is a matter of priorities.

I think it would be fine to keep on schedule and finish that in time, but in this day and age when the demands from the conflict in Vietnam are so great I do not think we can do everything we would like to do.

I just think the needs of the cities are more urgent and that is all.

Mr. CRAMER. Well, of course you take page 5 of your statement you say take the automobile excise tax out of the general fund and put it in the trust fund. You are going to take money out of the Teacher Corps, the rent supplement, the housing program, and what have you. It has to come from someplace.

Mr. BINGHAM. I think we have to do more in those other programs.

Mr. CRAMER. What are you going to take it out of, then?

Mr. BINGHAM. I think again it is a question of priorities.

Mr. CRAMER. Where are you going to take the money from if you are going to take \$1.5 billion out of the general fund and put it into mass transit? What program are you going to cut back out of the general fund?

Mr. BINGHAM. I am not in a position to say exactly what programs I would cut back.

Mr. CRAMER. Foreign aid?

Mr. BINGHAM. But in a general way we would have to defer some of the space activities. I think we have to defer the work on the supersonic plane, that type of thing.

I think we could cut back on the expenses of maintaining forces in Western Europe. It seems to me these are some of the areas. Our priorities again are out of whack.

Mr. CRAMER. That is all I have.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Any further questions?

The gentleman from California, Mr. Clausen.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Mr. Bingham, I think you have made a contribution to the hearings here. I think we have similar objectives but maybe different approaches.

I would like to ask you a very pointed question. Do you believe that we should tax the commuters to build highways?

Mr. BINGHAM. I think we should use whatever taxes we have available for whatever purposes are most important.

The way you put the question makes it sound very harsh, but in principle all of our Federal taxes should go to the general fund and then should be allocated in the scale of priorities that the Congress determines the most urgent.

Mr. CLAUSEN. The reason I say that is because we are skating on thin ice when we ask the people in your area who really need as you say to improve the mass transit capabilities to ask them to pay for shall we say highways in another section of the country.

Now, conversely it is questionable in my mind whether we should reverse this and ask for the people who need highways desperately in other sections of the country to pay for your rapid transit system.

I would suggest that you build on this concept you are talking about and ask for a mass transit trust fund and take a page out of the book of the very successful Highway Trust Fund. Everyone would be