

Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, if I could just say, I would like to thank my colleague from New York for his comments. I think several of them are well taken, and perhaps the statement should be corrected in those respects.

I would like to say, though, that I do not think it is a matter of the willingness of the mass transit users to pay additionally, but it is a matter of their ability; and I really think that there is an impression that the city people who do not live in poverty areas are reasonably affluent people and this just is not so in very, very many parts of a city such as New York. They are very hard pressed, and it is a question of economics that I am suggesting, rather than the question of preference.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Mr. Bingham, it has been a pleasure to have you before this committee and to have your views.

As you know, these are very extensive hearings, and in writing up our legislation your remarks will be given every consideration. This is the year of decision, 1968. This is the year of decision as to the future roads, and we are trying to get the proper language into this new legislation, not to try to hamper the administration, so the administration does not have any more holdbacks or whatever you want to call it. But we do want to complete this entire State highway system. We cannot do it by 1972. We are going to try to complete it in 1973 or 1974.

Now, we had AASHO before us with some wonderful testimony on "After 1975"; and some of these statements say that by 1985 we will have 144 million registered automobiles on the roads. We are trying to do something to make it a lot easier and more pleasant for the future generation. We are trying to get rid of the slaughter on the highways, where we kill over 50,000 American people each year.

Again, it has been a pleasure to have you before the committee. Thank you for appearing.

The next witness will be Mr. Ancher Nelsen, our colleague from Minnesota.

Mr. Nelsen, you have been very patient.

STATEMENT OF HON. ANCHER NELSEN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Mr. NELSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have listened with interest to the statements that were made, and I was particularly interested in the statement of the gentleman from New Hampshire, who made reference to the fact that we were anxious to hang on to what we had and, of course, I also would like to make the observation that I have no quarrel with the statement of Mr. Mahon, of Texas, who suggests that we plan into the future and add to the mileage looking to the future.

Now, later in the hearings Mr. Seacrest will appear, and in his testimony he will recommend linking Highway 35 all the way north to the Canadian border; and I may say to the gentleman who referred to the dust of other areas of the country, this goes way down to Oklahoma and goes to the Canadian border, so that all of you may enjoy the very wonderful, clean air and the 10,000 lakes of Minnesota.

Now, my purpose in appearing before you this morning is to vigorously protest the action taken by the President, through his Sec-