

the impact of a highway facility must be fully considered and where the acquisition of rights-of-way is getting progressively more difficult.

In closing, let me say that what we most need and desire is the ability to carry out a well-balanced highway program which will benefit all the States and their people and, while accomplishing this, to be a respected and valued partner in the Federal-State relationship.

You have given me the opportunity to share my views with you and for this I am deeply appreciative.

Thank you.

If there are any questions, I would be glad to try to answer them.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. The gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Denney.

Mr. DENNEY. Mr. Stafseth, as I take it, the general gist of your statement is that you support the AASHO recommendations.

Mr. STAFSETH. Yes, sir.

Mr. DENNEY. We have had considerable testimony of possibly extending the interstate 5,000 to 6,000 miles to fill in the vacant lanes with a portion of the funds, but putting the primary thrust upon the ABC program? Would that fit in with your thinking?

Mr. STAFSETH. We would support this move. We make this one comment: We would like to encourage, not in expanding the Interstate System any great amount of mileage, but this would be acceptable.

Mr. DENNEY. Mr. Chairman, I think the No. 1 item, the integrity of the trust fund has been brought out by every single witness we have had, and I am sure this committee is giving serious consideration to that recommendation.

Thank you very much.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Well, Mr. Stafseth, we are very happy to have your presence here before this committee. You have been here since early this morning, and I promised you to be out by 3:30, but we are very happy to have you before this committee, and when we go into executive session I will read that statement of yours which has been very interesting and also whatever else you would care to add.

I guarantee you and assure you that every member of the committee will read every word of your testimony.

Thank you. It was a pleasure to have you here before this committee.

Mr. STAFSETH. Thank you for your courtesies.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. The next witness, ladies and gentlemen, will be Mr. Francis S. Lorenz, Director, Department of Public Works and Buildings, State of Illinois.

He is accompanied by Mr. Johnson of his office.

Mr. Lorenz, we expect some of the other members here momentarily. I appreciate your patience, for waiting all of this time. I am sorry you had to wait this long, but I assure you that you have transportation to the airport, and you are all set.

I do want to announce that this will probably be the last appearance of this gentleman before this committee. We have had him here time and time again, and he has always given us some good points to write up legislation.

Mr. Lorenz is going to resign on the 15th of June, because he is a candidate for the Attorney General of Illinois.

You may proceed as you wish, Mr. Lorenz.