

argue amongst themselves. I do not choose to get involved in that argument; but we do have the situation here that places us about 475 miles at least across there with nothing north and south.

The Department of Defense people have come to me and pointed this out, that they do not have access to this for some of their movements which are along the highways, and we believe that an analysis of this situation will reveal the need for an interstate highway in this general area.

It does have the support of Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana people.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. So you are asking for 475 additional miles then?

Mr. WAGGONNER. No, sir; we are not asking for 475 additional miles.

I am saying that as these highways go north and south, there is a gap in a heavily populated area which serves some large towns, and all the areas I have mentioned, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, for which we have no interstate mileage.

We think that some 350 to 375 maximum miles would, in Louisiana, serve the interstate needs; but you cannot determine those miles exactly until you choose a specific route, and I have, as an alternative, given you something not as desirable, because it would not be as direct, the suggestion that if you were interested in shortening this mileage, in mileage it would not be applicable to the other States I have mentioned.

You might want to terminate this by letting this intersect with Highway No. 10, which runs east and west in southern Louisiana; but this is something, of course, which should be studied, and it would be an alternative.

This would not be as desirable and, of course, this is the purpose of the Interstate System.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Congressman, you have a map there. Is that a marked map? We would like to have that in our committee files, if possible. That has been explained, and it is in the record, and we have the map there.

Are there any questions or comments?

I recognize the gentleman from California, Mr. Clausen.

Mr. CLAUSEN. I just want to compliment the gentleman for a very fine statement. I would rather yield to my other colleagues.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Mr. Harsha, the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. HARSHA. Mr. Waggonner, what is the approximate distance between Monroe, La., and Baton Rouge?

Mr. WAGGONNER. Monroe is in the northern part of Louisiana, and Baton Rouge is in what is known as the southern part of the State.

If you look at the map there, that distance by existing highways is something over 200 miles.

Mr. HARSHA. If interstate highways were built between those two points, they would have to go west over to Shreveport?

Mr. WAGGONNER. Yes, sir; you will see two interstates in Mississippi which are rather close to Monroe, but the gap really is from the Louisiana line to Dallas, Tex.

You would be adding extra mileage to do that.