

Louisiana figures that if they could get this extension of interstate in western Louisiana coming out of Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, down through western Louisiana, then they could provide for the need in the eastern part of the State.

Mr. HARSHA. Well now, has the State highway department ever made application for this?

Mr. WAGGONNER. Well, of course, the State highway department does concur. Our State highway department is here in town with the chairman of the Governor's toll roads study commission in Louisiana, and this is the urgent need for a highway in the area. This is the No. 1 priority and, admittedly, the State of Louisiana is considering a toll road for a four-lane if they cannot get interstate mileage because the need is so great here.

Mr. HARSHA. Do you know whether or not there will be an application for interstate routes suggested by you?

Mr. WAGGONNER. No, I do not think they have, because, actually, the interstate mileage which was allocated a number of years ago did not provide for interstate mileage north and south in this area; so there was none, really, to apply for.

Mr. HARSHA. That is what I was trying to get at, whether or not the mileage you are sharing the mileage with is already counted?

Mr. WAGGONNER. The 41,000, yes; of the initial 41,000 we got a fair and equitable part of that mileage, but our mileage was east and west.

Mr. HARSHA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. Any further questions or comments?

Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. WAGGONNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. It has been a pleasure to have you before this committee.

Let the Chairman make an announcement. We have permission to sit this afternoon, and we have three more witnesses this morning.

The next witness will be Mr. Arch Lamb of Lubbock, Tex., chairman of the Transportation Committee, National Association of Counties.

Mr. Lamb, Mr. Mahon of Texas was on the stand yesterday. Of course, he is chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and we need him; and you may proceed now as you wish.

STATEMENT OF ARCH LAMB, CHAIRMAN, TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, ACCOMPANIED BY BERNARD F. HILLENBRAND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES; AND RALPH TABOR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NACO

Mr. LAMB. We have a prepared statement, Mr. Chairman, and I will try to be as brief as I can in the presentation of it. It is very short.

I am Arch Lamb, county commissioner, Lubbock County, Tex., and chairman of the National Association of Counties Committee on Transportation. I appear today representing the National Association of Counties.

The National Association of Counties is very concerned about the decreasing amount of Federal funds available for the construction of