

It is too bad our time is short. You have made a splendid statement.

I was going to make some comment and ask you some questions and, of course, one of them is: You remember the greatest undertaking in the history of the world was the Interstate and Defense Highways. The cry was: Where are we going to get the engineers, the materiel? And where are we going to get this and that, and especially the heavy road equipment?

We have it. They were ahead of us. We anticipated spending \$27 billion to \$29 billion, and now it is up to around \$55 billion or \$56 billion, and I do not understand why the administration believes in freezes and holdbacks or whatever it is.

I just do not understand that, because if we do not build next year, it is going to cost a lot more the following year, and it is going up a lot, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 points every year.

As soon as they learn they can save money, they are going to cut down the program and put people out of work, have all these small contractors, who are mortgaged to the ears with heavy equipment that is just being rusted out in a yard some place. We are going to wind up with about 10 or 12 big contractors doing the job, and the price will go way up.

Mr. LAMB. I concur with you, Mr. Chairman.

I say in reference to this question, it is like a family cutting down on expenses. They say, let's cut out the milk and the meat; and that is what we are doing.

May I take this opportunity and infringe upon your time to say to you, Mr. Chairman, that through the years as I have read about you I have been extremely grateful to you and this committee for the wonderful highway system that we have in America today.

Each of our highways is like the umbilical cord, and I am very anxious to see that we do not give up, and we keep our cities tied together.

The thing that has made our country great is this exchange of ideas, people and goods, city between city.

The Interstate is, of course, just a much larger umbilical cord. It made this transport of food back and forth from the farmers to the mothers and fathers better. I do not think we should give up on it. We may have some problems now, but we should not lose hope.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. I have had the experience, because I drove a truck back in 1911 and 1912, when there were no roads. That is why I appreciate the wonderful highway system that we have now.

I will let the chairman of the Appropriations Committee know you are doing pretty well.

Mr. LAMB. Thank you very much.

Mr. KLUCZYNSKI. The chart attached to your statement will be made a part of the record at this point.

(Chart follows:)