

Mr. SCHWENGEL. First, I want to say I appreciate your testimony and I am glad to see you here. I wonder, though, I know some of your forward looking plans. I know some of your people. I have been identified in Iowa with roadbuilding.

I wonder why some information given now was not presented to us when we were having the hearings on the Interstate System a number of years ago.

Mr. WEBB. The answer, Mr. Schwengel, is that the industry at that time had no plans or ideas to produce a wider, more comfortable, or better bus. So, the 96-inch limitations did not go in by this committee but as I indicated, by the Senate committee. It was not opposed by us because we simply had no plans at that time to make a better bus.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. How many buses are in operation in the United States now?

Mr. WEBB. Mr. Greenslit can answer.

Mr. GREENSLIT. My company which is the largest; the intercity buses we are talking about?

Mr. SCHWENGEL. Yes.

Mr. GREENSLIT. Operate 5,300. It is pretty much a guess but somewhere in the neighborhood of 28,000 or 30,000.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. In your estimation how many would take advantage of extending the width?

Mr. GREENSLIT. Well, it would take us some time to replace our fleet. We have on order 50 at the moment. I would think it would take 3 to 5 years to have 50 percent of our fleet converted into this newer type equipment.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. But we are talking about 15,000 buses.

Mr. GREENSLIT. That would be it, roughly.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. Out of the total?

Mr. GREENSLIT. That is right.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I notice you have some seats in here. Are those the type you will use or those the type you are now using?

Mr. GREENSLIT. That is one set of each. One of those sets of seats are the wider seats that we have engineered for the new bus and it is amazing if you will have a chance to sit in one of them how much difference 1½ inches in seat width means when you have two people sitting side by side.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. How does this size compare with the airplane seats we have?

Mr. GREENSLIT. Well, I would say that the present seat in the bus is comparable to a tourist seat in an airplane and the new seat, the larger, wider seat is not as wide as first class on an airplane, but it gives you considerably more comfort and we have been able to develop this.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. I have traveled almost always first class in an airplane and I have never seen seats that wide.

Mr. GREENSLIT. Well, you will notice we do not have the arm rest in the middle which makes quite a difference. I think most of the airplane seats, there is an arm rest which takes up some of the width space.

Mr. SCHWENGEL. You are not worried about the weight? It does not concern you at all?