

NEW BALL GAME

To The Commercial Appeal:

It appears that highway planning consultant Robert Conradt has found a very desirable alternate route for the east-west leg of Interstate Highway 40 as it passes through the center of Memphis. It also appears that federal highway planners either overlooked this route via Cypress Creek and L&N right of way, or they ignored it in an effort to get I-40 built through Memphis at the lowest initial dollar cost, while ignoring environmental factors.

Unless the expressway is tunneled under the park, the noise from the tires rolling at high speed will destroy the peaceful atmosphere in the entire park. Expert testimony indicates that neither plant life nor zoo animals will flourish amid the exhaust fumes and the noise.

At least four major changes have occurred since the Memphis expressway and interstate system was designed nearly 20 years ago. These changes make it a new ball game.

1—The finding of a suitable alternate route for the east-west leg of I-40.

2—The development of convenient mass transit systems for medium-sized cities and the success of the French plan of public cars for hire by the hour. These developments will reduce the number of cars on city streets.

3—The development of large regional shopping centers to the north, east and south of Memphis.

4—The critical scarcity of quiet natural areas for people, plant life and wildlife.

All Memphians should insist that work on the east-west leg of I-40 be prevented between Cleveland and Holmes until a better answer is found.

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