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Retain Cool Driving Home

To The Commercial Appeal:

I am sure E. Y. Hawkins' reaction to the delay in getting to his home at 5921 Poplar Pike has been experienced by all of us at one time or the other. Sitting in a car, bus, streetcar waiting for traffic to move—particularly when we have a work or play date—is frustrating and in our anger we lash out wildly and unfairly.

However, when we arrive at our destination we usually cool down and realize our tardiness for a golf or tennis game, cocktail party or even to mow the lawn, has not resulted in a national disaster!

Apparently Mr. Hawkins did not cool down and vented his frustration on certain individuals involved in the Overton Park case without knowing all the facts in this dispute. Or that there are overtones that are far more serious than even the loss of Overton Park.

There is the question of the ability of state and local highways departments. The same departments that lacked the foresight to visualize the dangers of a left turn on busy Union into I-255 and other dangerous ramp spots further south on I-255; which went out of its way to by-pass Chickasaw Golf Course in favor of destroying homes are now the same departments that refuse to admit there is a way to save the park without using the L&N or Southern routes and which is "prudent and feasible."

Unquestionably, the most serious overtone involves the right of people to know all the facts about anything of a public nature. When one ownership controls news outlets directly or indirectly, censorship is bound to occur despite all claims to the contrary. Also such single ownership precludes deep investigation into questionable handling of public affairs. For example, neither local paper had their reporters dig into the pressure brought upon engineers and consultants to by-pass Chickasaw Golf Course. Nor did they alert the public about destruction of Overton before one dollar was spent for right-of-way.

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