

R-4 OPE-24-01

Letters To The Editor

CA

May 3, 1975

Costly Judgment

To The Commercial Appeal:

Since Secretary of Interior Coleman has given his approval or advocates a cut-and-cover tunnel for Interstate 40 through Overton Park, this seems typical of a bureaucrat. Money seems to solve all problems. With this kind of judgment, it is easy to understand why the federal budget is so vast.

Since it is to take \$160 million and 90 per cent of it is to be furnished by the federal government, it becomes everyone's concern.

I would like for someone to explain why Overton Park Zoo couldn't be moved to another location. It would seem more practical.

This brings me to the question of Overton Park. I am sure Overton Park is not the only piece of real estate that can be used as a park. After all, what is being considered, the sentimental value or the millions of people that will travel the highway and the taxpayers?

I. D. SHEDD

Manila, Ark.

Cut-And-Cover Approval

To The Commercial Appeal:

I am writing to express my approval of Secretary of Interior Coleman's decision to complete the expressway through Overton Park by use of a cut-and-cover tunnel. This decision not only spares the park and facilitates traffic for both inter- and intra-city travelers, but it will also give Memphis an economic charge.

The secretary's decision has been criticized by local officials because of the costs involved. Only 10 per cent of the cost will come from the state — the remainder will come from the federal government. The City of Memphis will benefit enormously from having \$160 million spent in our community. The people employed by this project

will benefit directly, and everyone will benefit indirectly as a result of the spending of this money in our city.

Innkeepers, restaurateurs, retailers, wholesalers, providers of services and others will benefit.

The State of Tennessee will benefit both indirectly, by the benefits inuring to the denizens of this section of the state, and directly by its 5 per cent sales tax on the dollars spent in Tennessee. When coupled with the long-range benefits, we in Memphis should thank Coleman for granting us this economic windfall.

This is the best thing that has happened to our economy in years.

STEPHEN I. COHEN

1667 Central