

Letters To The Editor

Shoddy Solution

To The Commercial Appeal:

While I am an architect by profession, I am writing to you as a private citizen. I am appalled at the number of politicians jumping on the bandwagon concerning this latest, and thus far, worst proposal in the long I-40 struggle. Too much effort has been expended thus far to settle for such a cheap, shoddy solution now.

While downtown Memphis has its troubles, one of the greatest assets the city has is its beautiful older residential areas in Midtown. North Parkway is one of the most outstanding of these neighborhoods.

It is false economy to save highway funds at the expense of destroying a whole section of the city.

Secretary Coleman's solution is expensive, but by far the best. I urge support of it. Great cities are not built by such cop-outs as this latest proposal.

C. E. DILLE III

1900 Jackson

Not So Stupid?

To The Commercial Appeal:

At first glance on the editorial page, the cartoon of Pyramid Park in lieu of Overton Park was stupid!

After careful consideration of construction, and the proposed formation of a group to protest the Farris and Chandler plan to send the interstate down North Parkway, another delay of at least 10 years, your cartoonist began to solve the problem.

Start at Holmes Road, elevate the interstate to some point near Sears. This will solve where the state has the right-of-way. There you have your problem of Overton Park solved. Think it over.

P. C. MOCK SR.

1590 Channel

Worst Plan Yet

To The Commercial Appeal:

The completion of I-40 over North Parkway is the most ridiculous alternate plan yet! The most vocal of "The Citizens to Preserve Overton Park" has not said a word yet about the fumes from the north side causing deformed lions in the zoo. Nor have I heard or seen her on TV tying any yellow ribbons on oak trees on the parkway as she did some months back when Senator Brock walked the original route. I believe the North Parkway fumes would be closer to the animals in the zoo than from the south. Was all this action just to keep the expressway from coming so close to her home on Buena Vista?

And what about the professor from Southwestern who has worked so hard and elicited the aid of so many of his college

To The Commercial Appeal:

Columnist D'Army Bailey's commentary, "Righting Fuel Wrongs," July 14 is replete with statements contradictory to facts. It is unfortunate that various comments on energy, which is so vital to this country, are made from emotion rather than historical, substantiated facts.

He states that "the oil companies have not accounted to the consuming public about the financial justifications for the continuing increases" in gasoline prices. Surely he must be aware that the oil industry has been under price controls since 1971 and no increases have been allowed in the price of gasoline but the pass-through increased costs of raw materials (crude oil) and other specified operating costs. We now depend on nearly 40 per cent of our crude oil needs from imports which have quadrupled in price. And this dependence will continue to grow in the years ahead.

He concludes with "strict price and regulatory controls on the oil industry are urgently needed." And, yet, at no time in the history of this nation has an industry

Facts Not Emotion

been under such strict and rigid controls in peacetime as the oil industry is now.

Regulatory controls are a principal cause of the domestic energy shortage which this country now faces. It is my view that federal price controls on U.S. crude oil have been economically disruptive, and are not in the interest of American consumers. These regulations do not protect consumers. In fact, they freeze consumer-supplier relationships, reduce competition, add costs, cause inefficiencies and create a shortage market psychology. All of these things tend to increase consumer prices. And still, Mr. Bailey seeks more controls and regulations.

Only when we return to the free market system and fully embrace the economic law of supply and demand will we have answers to difficult and complex issues facing this nation.

RAY V. HANSEN

Marketing Department
Exxon
P.O. Box 367, Memphis

Logical Way Out

To The Commercial Appeal:

After reading your account of the most recent proposed route for I-40 expressway, I am further convinced those people who are coming up with ideas for the expressway don't know what they are talking about. After nearly 20 years of lawsuits and uprooting families along the original right-of-way, the people who make the decisions but don't have to live with the result have come up with another poor plan for the expressway.

North Parkway is one of the loveliest areas in the city, with many fine old homes, beautiful vegetation and easy access to downtown, North Memphis and already built expressways to the south.

The environmentalist group fought to keep the expressway out of the park, but they apparently didn't think about the adjacent environment and the people who live in the area. I don't believe the North Parkway residents really want the expressway through the park itself, but neither do we want a six-lane concrete edifice through Hollywood to McLean. The trees don't keep the noise down as it is. Improving the existing roads from the present expressway, and more clearly marking the streets leading to the western I-40 access would be a more logical and cheaper way out of the present dilemma.

MARA F. JONES

1630 North Parkway

Not North Parkway

To The Commercial Appeal:

I wish to express opposition to the proposed I-40 plan to use North Parkway. Besides destroying a beautiful drive, and few are left in the city, it will also seriously undermine the Vecca area, so important for its accomplishments in interracial understanding.

Why add further error to past error in city planning? Putting heavy coast-to-coast traffic through Midtown is unnecessarily destructive. Such traffic would better be directed on a circumferential route to the north. Why can that not be consid-

colleagues to preserve the trees in Overton Park? Are the trees lining the north side of Overton Park plastic? And the beautiful wooded front campus of Southwestern to be destroyed for the same reason? Maybe I need new glasses to tell the difference between the southern trees and the northern trees, and maybe I need a new nose to tell the difference in the smell of the fumes of the motoring traffic on the north from the south side!

Oh well, I am just a dumb country girl from Mississippi who needs the "intellectuals" of "The Citizens to Preserve Overton Park" to explain this very in-depth reasoning.

ALICE SMITH

900 University