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Letters To The Editor

Expressway Protest

To The Commercial Appeal:

I strongly protest the building of an elevated expressway over North Parkway, which is one of the most scenic routes in this city. It would destroy lovely homes and family living in the area. The whole city would be deprived of these assets.

ANN DASHIELL MAYNARD
2230 North Parkway

Cleanest Solution

To The Commercial Appeal:

Having lived in other cities and observing elevated highways: An all-concrete, at rooftop level, highway would be the cleanest, least-destructive solution available. There would be less noise pollution — trees, like shrubbery, make the very best sound barriers there is. They, likewise, obscure the view.

Nowhere else but Memphis do you find a project study studied. Then that study studied. Until both study costs and pertinent data often no longer pertain. Nowhere.

Or the rights of many obscured by those of so few. Only Memphis, the Country Village.

GERALD WOOD

1767 Union East

Frankenstein's Monster

To The Commercial Appeal:

There are some Frankensteins who want to create a concrete monster to lay its ugly body on our beautiful scenic North Parkway. Are we going to let them get by with it?

The ecologists fought for the monkeys. Who is willing to fight for the neutral strip?

Take your pen in hand and write to anybody who is looking for your vote. This is your city. Don't let a yet unnamed group blight your community.

ANGELA AND VINCENT ASTOR
563 North Trezevant

'A Visual Monstrosity'

To The Commercial Appeal:

I am saddened but not surprised to learn that Squire Farris is again working for the "welfare" of Memphis.

Still reeking from his questionable real estate deals, his double-dipping in retirement funds, and his ridiculous stance on no county funds for Penal Farm development, he has now solved the city's interstate highway problem. With true Farris insight, he would erect a visual monstrosity and pollute the zoo, Hein Park, Southwestern and Snowden School

with fumes and noise, all to "save" downtown Memphis.

Naturally it would never occur to him that the only thing that is now saving the downtown area is the residential Midtown that he wishes to further decimate. Since the squire has previously stated that the county should not involve itself in urban Memphis affairs, I suggest that he retire (on double pension, of course) to the sticks where he belongs.

JACK CONRAD

1751 Forrest

Rich Citizens Are Halting Progress

To The Commercial Appeal:

Pass out the towels, as our rich citizens in gold-plated Hein Park are crying again. The thought of the expressway coming down North Parkway has them all up in arms, but certain residents of that route will never be considered. Trucks are not allowed in this subdivision and the City Council gave them permission to barricade West Drive if so desired, but they can't be satisfied.

I can remember the days when middle-class people in Highland Heights were knocking on my door trying to buy my house so they wouldn't have to leave that area of the city. They were given a price for their house and told to move out as the expressway was coming through,

and they were in the way of progress.

Can you tell me why progress stops when it gets to the big money people surrounding Overton Park? Don't tell me the people of Hein Park and Mrs. Sunshine Snyder are worried about the environment of the poor animals in the zoo. The true fact is they do not want this area of the city changed — progress or no progress.

City hall will go along with them because of the money and the political power these people control, but I believe the middle-class people are getting stronger — as the next city and presidential elections will show.

J. P. JONES

3874 Vernon

Time To Speak Out

To The Commercial Appeal:

I do not own any real estate in Tennessee, therefore I can move within 30 days if there is something I find undesirable where I live.

The mid-city expressway has been controversial for 20 years and I sat thinking that I could not fight the "powers that be." But now, with the proposed elevated expressway plan over North Parkway, I feel I must speak out.

I have always been opposed to the expressway. I believe the idea for expressways is to take the heavy through-traffic around the city in order to leave city streets for city traffic. Why destroy beautiful neighborhoods, scenic area, polite living area and parks with noise and poisonous fumes for a straight truck route from Nashville to Little Rock?

The proposed elevated six-lane expressway down North Parkway is the most obnoxious, defacing and hazardous plan yet. "Save money" is the best selling point you have, but what about the lives of children going to Snowden School, young men and women at Southwestern, residents at Parkway House, animals housed adjacent to North Parkway at the zoo and the destruction of a beautiful neighborhood? Can you measure life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in dollars and cents? Pollution from traffic will certainly harm lives, kill vegetation and poison the air. Steel and concrete posts have to be numerous to carry the weight of 80-ton trucks and will be hazardous to those driving under the "El."

The VIPs yell and spend millions to save downtown. Who for? Not for the people who might shop downtown as the same VIPs approve destruction of beautiful neighborhoods convenient to downtown.

REBECCA M. SMITH

487 Dickinson

Handicapped City

To The Commercial Appeal:

Dear doctor and friend, thanks for the wonderful idea! A city with an incomplete expressway is like a person with just one ear. It is handicapped at least 40 per cent.

GEORGE S. BAILEY

856 Sumter

Scopes Rerun

To The Commercial Appeal:

Word comes that Dayton, that friendly town in East Tennessee's vacationland, plans to present a re-enactment of the Scopes monkey trial for visitors. This time a monkey will participate in the event that brought the town international attention. It would be nice if, after 50 years, testimony could be heard from one of those accused of being party to the descent of man.

DR. JAMES D. MCQUIRTER

1362 Monroe