


OPE-26-31

Thursday, October 14, 1976

2 Of 3 House Hopefuls Back I-40



Rep. Harold Ford and a spokesman for one of his opponents in the race for the Eighth Congressional District seat said last night they support completion of Interstate 40 even if it means going through Overton Park.

Both Ford and state Rep. Ed Williams, who was speaking for Republican candidate Andy Alissandratos, told about 50 people at Southwestern's Hardie Auditori-

um that the expressway is closer to being completed now than ever.

But Mark Flanagan, the independent candidate in the race and a member of Concerned Citizens for Overton Park, said he would chain himself to a tree to prevent bulldozers from beginning construction through the park.

Flanagan charged that during recent public hearings held in Memphis on the

completion of the expressway "there was a large attack from the money people to get that completed through the park and they're the same people who are supporting Andy Alissandratos and Harold Ford."

Ford said a decision on the expressway is expected from U.S. Secretary of Transportation William Coleman in about 30 days.

In other issues, Ford and Williams both voiced support for nuclear energy development while Flanagan asked for emphasis on solar energy research.

The speeches and question and answer session were sponsored by the Environmental Action Council of Memphis.