

*Dep't of page!* *May 12, 1977*  
I-40—Zoo Tour *CA*

## Is Learning Step

Federal Highway Administrator William Cox said yesterday he understands the Interstate 40 disagreement better after two days in Memphis, but said he has not formed an "overall opinion."

Cox met for about an hour yesterday morning with about 25 opponents of the plan to build a \$33-million sunken and partially covered roadway through Overton Park to complete the 3.7-mile segment of I-40. He met Monday with proponents of the plan.

Opponents of the plan, gathered in the office of their attorney, Charles F. Newman, discussed merits of alternatives to the park plan and told Cox Overton Park is the only "real forest area" in the city.

As the meeting began, Cox said: "I'm not here to conduct another public hearing. I'm here to try to establish in my mind where everything is."

After the meeting, Cox, four other highway administration officials, Newman and about 10 opponents of the park roadway walked through wooded areas of the park along the proposed route and through the Overton Park Zoo.

Dr. Arlo Smith, a biology professor at Southwestern, conducted a brief tour of the park's forest on the dirt trails. At one point, he asked Cox to stop and listen.

"Where's the traffic noise?" Smith asked: "About all you hear in here is an occasional helicopter or siren. This peace and quiet you can't find in very many parts of the city."

As Cox approached the bear and giraffe section of the zoo, Smith said fumes from traffic would harm the animals.

After the walking tour, Cox said his Memphis visit helped him relate to what he has read. "I can better understand what the points are and what the disagreement has been."

Cox said he "learned several major points" but declined to specify what he learned.

The next step, Cox said, is to review all the alternatives to the sunken plaza design through the park. He said he hopes to forward his recommendation to Transportation Secretary Brock Adams in 30 to 45 days.

Cox said a decision from Adams can be expected in 60 to 90 days.

## 2 Get Southwestern Scholarships

Donna Perdue, a senior at Catholic High School, and James E. Brannon of Atlanta have been selected to receive J. R. Hyde Scholarships at Southwestern. The scholarships, which provide \$2,850 a year, are based on scholastic and extracurricular achievement. Miss Perdue is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Evin L. Perdue of 239 Kenilworth.

*Almost inevitable!*

*CA*

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