

January 19, 1971

To: The Board of Citizens To Preserve Overton Park, Inc.

Attached is a statement of Citizens To Preserve Overton Park, Inc., which was delivered to Charles Brown of the "Memphis Press-Scimitar," Jimmie Covington of "The Commercial Appeal," and to representatives of WREC-TV, WMC-TV and WHBQ-TV, yesterday afternoon, January 18, 1971.

This statement was agreed upon by all proper legal authorities before being released. It was released as a function of the publicity committee. Page 13 of "The Commercial Appeal," today interprets this statement under the heading: "Councilmen Disagree on I-40, Park Decision." I do not know if it has been used on radio or television.

On the matter of publicity, Martha Lackner is in the process of acquiring signatures on petitions that say: "We the undersigned are convinced that feasible, prudent, and alternative routes exist, and we respectfully request that the plan to put an expressway through Overton Park be cancelled." Sunshine Snyder, the Cravens, and others have reproduced enough petitions for 20,000 names. In the park on Sunday about 98% of those asked signed, and forms are available here (275-1995) and at Martha's, 460 Cherry Road, S., phone 685-7866. Let me know interested persons, and I'll get petitions to them to get signed. Let's give Memphis an opportunity to "vote."

Next week we will have the 1000 cards for contributing members. We are awaiting approval of our request for public solicitation of funds. Mary Evelyn and Helen Witte took the request to City Hall about New Year's Eve.

The "Press-Scimitar" of January 18th had a picture and story about: "Clean-up Stirs Up Road-Fighters - Workmen Near Overton I-40 Insist: 'Just Cleaning Up'" The area is on Broad and Autumn, just east of East Parkway, and that heavy machinery has made a quagmire of the area, anything but "cleaned it up," and why pick that particular location and this particular time to dig up concrete from the yards for "use in Lauderdale County at the site of a bridge washout?"

At the Shelby County Republican Women's Club luncheon January 11th, City Council Chairman Wyeth Chandler said in answer to a question: "As far as the City getting into it (the case) that was a decision by the Mayor and the City Attorney, we were not asked one way or another about it... I don't know why they made the decision, I was not asked anything about it..."

Sara Hines
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