

3-6-68
Memphis - Streets - Expressway - Interstate 40 - Overton Park

The tone of this stinks!
Tondaying to Bridwell!

Memphis-Hwy
PSC 3-6-68
Kuykendall Not Sorry He Helped Reopen

By POWELL LINDSAY
The Press-Scimitar Bureau

WASHINGTON. — Rep. Dan Kuykendall said today he isn't one bit sorry he played a role in reopening the long-standing controversy over routing Interstate 40 through Overton Park.

"I can't understand why this project cannot stand the light of day," Kuykendall said. "Anytime someone tells me that the taxpayers don't have a right to ask that a multi-million-dollar

project be rejustified . . . well, that's against my philosophy of government."

The congressman's remarks followed the Memphis City Council's unexpected adoption of a resolution yesterday requesting that a new route be found for the expressway "if possible."

The projected route of the expressway through the park has stirred controversy for over a decade, and the dispute was rekindled when Kuykendall, in December an-

nounced that Federal Highway Administrator Lowell K. Bridwell would personally visit Memphis to inspect the route and the quarrel surrounding it.

The visit stemmed from a conversation between Transportation Secretary Alan Boyd and Kuykendall concerning a similar squabble over I-40's route through Nashville.

Boyd asked Kuykendall if it would be a good idea to send a federal official to

Memphis to look into the route controversy there. Kuykendall said he told Boyd that such a visit would probably be a good idea and would at least clear the air.

The congressman said he "never dreamed" that the route would be changed, in view of the long and exhaustive studies and hearings held on it for years.

Bridwell, who visited Memphis Feb. 14, has yet to announce whether he will o.k. the route through the

PSC 3-6-68

COSSITT LIBRARY
MEMPHIS, TENN.

X-Way Route Debate

park.

"Mr. Bridwell has not made his decision and will not for a few more days," Kuykendall said. "I do not know what his decision will be but as far as I am concerned it will be final and I shall concur in it."

Kuykendall has run into criticism for helping reopen the controversy over running the expressway through the park. Changing the approved route through the park will lead to additional

expense and delay significantly the completion of the vital East-West city expressway.

Kuykendall said that he was "surprised" at the City Council action yesterday and that he had made no effort whatsoever to influence council's decision.

"It surprises me greatly that the proponents of this route (through the park) could not persuade a majority of this council, which includes the immediate past

president of the Downtown Association (Philip Perel) who had been one of the most vocal proponents of the Overton Park route, to concur with their point of view," Kuykendall said.

Whether council's action asking for a new route, perhaps one circling the park to the north, will have any effect on Bridwell's decision could not be learned. Bridwell was out of Washington and could not be reached for comment.

Same
Article

