

PS 11-5-70

Contract Let For Disputed Segment

**Michaels Bid
Of \$5,298,990
Wins Award**

By **KAY PITTMAN BLACK**
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

The Tennessee Highway Department awarded the construction contract on the controversial I-40 expressway segment through Overton Park shortly before noon today and officials announced that work is expected to start in two weeks.

H. D. Long, assistant to Commissioner Charles W. Speight, said by telephone from Nashville today that Michaels Construction Co., Inc., of Chattanooga, the low bidder, was awarded the contract for \$5,298,990.39. Long said, "We'll issue the work order within two weeks, as we usually do, and the contractors tell us they're ready to go to work immediately on the expressway."

The Highway Department is going ahead with construction plans despite the fact that opponents to the expressway could still appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to try to block the route.

The opponents' bid to stop the expressway was turned down by a Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel of three judges in Cincinnati. The opponents subsequently asked that the entire 12 member court rehear the

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