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# Pack 'Justifies' Overton Routing

## Park Expressway Called Entirely Defensible In All Aspects

By WILLIAM BENNETT

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NASHVILLE, March 5. — State Atty. Gen. David Pack said Friday he feels the Overton Park routing of Interstate 40 in Memphis can be justified on all scores — including that of environment.

“All of us are in agreement that we should vigorously pursue our efforts to get this section of interstate construction underway as soon as possible,” Pack said.

His comments followed a two-hour conference with State Highway Commissioner Robert Smith, United States Atty. Thomas Turley Jr. of Memphis, Special State Counsel J. Alan Hanover of Memphis and other state officials.

The discussion centered on the ruling of the United States Supreme Court Tuesday which sent the entire Overton Park controversy back to federal district court in Memphis for review.

The tribunal's decision was a forward step for conservationists who have been fighting the park route.

Pack said one of the first orders of business will be to arrange a meeting with United States Transportation Secretary John Volpe.

The Overton Park case will be decided by Federal Dist. Judge Bailey Brown of Memphis, who has promised a hearing as soon as possible.

Though the ultimate decision will be up to the courts, Pack said he feels the disparity in cost between the park routing and an alternate approach will be a “very decisive factor.”

Commissioner Smith defended the park link as the most practical route for the super-highway and also noted the cheapest alternate would cost at least 10 million dollars more.

Pack said he and the others do not intend to “run roughshod” over environmental considerations but felt confident the park section can be defended from the standpoint of all considerations, including cost, engineering and environment.

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