

Push For Park Route Is Ready

By MORRIS CUNNINGHAM

From The Commercial Appeal Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, May 16.—Copies of letters, resolutions and other materials indicating community support for routing Interstate 40 through Overton Park in Memphis have been received here and will be presented to Transportation Secretary Claude S. Brinegar.

The materials, including a recent editorial from The Commercial Appeal entitled "Push for Park Route," will be presented to Brinegar by Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.).

Baker is seeking a meeting with Brinegar later this week. As a member of the Senate Commerce Committee which has jurisdiction over transportation legislation, Baker has close relations with the secretary of transportation.

The materials—copies of which were obtained by The Commercial Appeal Wednesday—are headed by a pointed letter from Gov. Winfield Dunn addressed to Baker, Sen. William Brock (R-Tenn.) and Rep. Dan Kuykendall of Memphis.

"I have stated on numerous occasions my own very strong view that this highway should be completed through the park on the route that has been designated for a number of years as expeditiously as possible," Dunn's letter states. "I strongly urge your support and assistance in resolving this difficulty."

The governor, Baker, Brock, Kuykendall and others agreed in a huddle here last week to push for building the superhighway through the park.

Litigation initiated by the Citizens to Preserve Overton Park has blocked construction through the park.

Alternate designs could include cut-and-cover or a tunnel, if objections to a partially depressed design for the highway cannot be overcome.

Supportive documents in the stack of materials to be presented to Brinegar include letters from state Atty. Gen.

David M. Pack, Lt. Gov. John S. Wilder, state House Speaker Ned McWherter, City Council Chairman Thomas H. Todd Jr., City Engineer Frank P. Palumbo Jr., Mayor Wyeth Chandler, Shelby County Commission Chariman Jack Ramsay, president James C. Merkle of the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, president John W. Hardin of the Tennessee State Building and Construction Trades Council and president William E. Shel-

ton III of the Downtown Association, a resolution adopted by the Memphis branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and several others.

Also included was a letter in which the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association which expressed "vehement opposition" to use of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad right-of-way as an alternative to the park route.

See also over: "Rebranding Zoo"

CA.

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