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Jaycees Push For I-40 Through Overton Park

By MORRIS CUNNINGHAM

From The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4. — Officials of Memphis area Jaycee Clubs said Monday they will pressure state officials to submit to the federal government a cut-and-cover design for carrying the stalled Interstate 40 through Overton Park.

The Jaycees made the pledge after meeting with John W. Barnum, undersecretary of transportation, and presenting him with petitions signed by 35,000 Memphians urging completion of the 3.7-mile I-40 segment.

Barnum told the Memphians that Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar cannot express an official opinion on a highway plan until it has been formally presented by the proper state agency.

This is the position Brinegar has taken in litigation

now before the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. In that case the State of Tennessee is insisting that Brinegar suggest an alternative to the partially depressed Overton Park route that his predecessor, John Volpe, rejected.

Rep. Dan Kuykendall (R-Tenn), who attended the meeting with Barnum, said both sides should accept the appellate court decision — whatever it turns out to be — and not prolong the case by taking it to the Supreme Court.

The petitions, collected during a four-week period, filled three egg crates. They included a large number of letters from city and county officials and other.

Presenting the materials and the Jaycee clubs they represented were Eugene Evan and John Sorrell, Whitehaven; Paul Rainey, Parkway Village, and Bill Dismukes, Memphis.

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Story also in Charm 5 and in P.S. on Feb. 3.

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