

OPE 23-14

# Brock Promises Sponsorship For I-40 Overton Park Bill

From The Commercial Appeal  
Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, Feb. 13. — Sen. William Brock (R-Tenn.) said he told Gov. Ray Blanton Thursday he would "be delighted" to sponsor federal legislation aimed at routing Interstate 40 through Overton Park in Memphis.

Brock, meeting with newsmen after spending about half an hour in conference

with Blanton, said he and the governor were in "complete agreement" that the park link should be completed promptly.

The lawmaker said the Blanton staff is at work on material to be used in the congressional effort, which was decided upon last week as a possible means of resolving the Overton Park

impasse.

Asked what the timetable is on introducing a bill, Brock said, "I don't know. It's just a matter of putting it together (in a form) that will pass the Congress."

He said approval of such a piece of legislation will be difficult, but added Memphis will "choke to death" if the route is not completed.

Brock said he asked for and received Blanton's support for a revenue sharing bill the senator introduced last month to prevent "financial chaos" at the state and local level.

Also discussed, Brock said, were the transfer of \$12 billion in unspent money in the federal highway trust

fund to rural and secondary Tennessee counties hit by alternating floods and drouth.

Brock, who has blasted President Ford's proposed budget because it calls for a \$52-billion deficit, said there is "a lot of public concern and a lot of confusion" about the Ford economic and energy programs.

He said Ford's rapid energy conservation approach is too costly and added he favors a more gradual program of fuel conservation.

Brock termed the current withdrawal of insurance companies from writing medical malpractice liability coverage for hospitals and physicians "a crisis." Those firms that still write such coverage have in some cases boosted their rates by 150 per cent.

Brock suggested as one possible solution an approach to the medical malpractice coverage similar to the system of workmen's compensation in Tennessee and elsewhere.