

OPE-27-06

# Letters TO THE EDITOR

## Memphis Press-Scimitar



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Tuesday, February 17, 1976

Give Light an

### *Memphian Notes Discrepancies In Record on Expressway*

Your Feb. 7 editorial, "Right On, Secretary Coleman," contains inaccuracies. I refer to Paragraphs 5 and 6 of that editorial.

You state that the "only gap" in Interstate 40 coast to coast is the 3.7-mile stretch through Overton Park. According to AAA (as of Feb. 10, 1976), there are across the country no fewer than 12 gaps, estimated aggregate of 179 miles, in I-40. But Memphis is not listed as a gap. The southern perimeter expressway is now identified as I-40.

As for your statement that "a majority of Memphians voted years ago in favor of running the road through the park," I know of no such vote. There was in April, 1975, a referendum proposal by one member of City Council, such referendum to be placed on the October ballot along with city elections. Apparently, the proposal died.

Nor is it completely accurate to state that the highway "has been blocked in the courts by citizens." The way has been blocked by laws of Congress implemented by the federal courts and, until recently, by federal administrators.

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