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"Letters to the Editor: 'Highway Must Go Through', 'Lawful Force', 'Criminal'"

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OPE 30-07

CA, Oct. 30, 1977

Highway Must Go Through

To The Commercial Appeal:

A Mr. David in one of the letters to the editor of your paper suggested a toll highway through Overton Park. This would give Tennessee a method of paying for the works — just as the toll highway between Fort Worth and Dallas has paid for itself over and over again. Trucks could then be rerouted on I-240.

In Fort Worth an expressway goes right along the side of a park and in several years time has done no damage.

Since there was a highway from Memphis to Raleigh before there was a zoo, nothing will be changed. It was a part of the agreement between Mr. Sumner and the city when he sold it the land that a highway would be maintained here.

By right of domain the land which approaches the park was taken from the owners at a price set by the state. I was one of the owners.

To use this land for any other purpose is crooked. And to my mind would make

'Lawful Force'

To The Commercial Appeal:

For the information of all committees and organizations investigating law enforcement, I am very much against any law enforcement officer, off duty or on duty, not being armed to handle any unlawful act against my life, my property, or his life.

I feel lawful force properly executed is the only answer to law enforcement and needs to be supported by all the people: "Do not break the laws" — "Fear not."

CLAUDE L. HOLIFIELD

4482 Ernie Drive

Watergate look like a Sunday school caper in comparison.

LUCILLE B. AKERS

1380 Forrest

Criminal

To The Commercial Appeal:

Recently while on my way home from the airport I decided to take advantage of the fine weather and stroll through Overton Park.

It was a beautiful day and hundreds of Memphians were enjoying the park and zoo. From the zoo area it was a pleasure to look across North Parkway and see Southwestern's grounds and buildings with Hein Park homes and Parkway House adding to the scene.

The flow of traffic brought to mind the I-40 and Overton Park dispute that has raged for years. Standing at the "scene of the potential crime" it occurred to me that Memphis would be out of its head to even consider replacing what the Good Lord has given them to enjoy!

There is a saying "Justice! What crimes are committed in thy name." Just substitute progress for justice and we have the dispute in a nutshell!

Are we to assume the Supreme Court was too optimistic in thinking there were enough brains, imagination and leadership in Memphis to come up with a "prudent and feasible" alternative to breaking the law? To save the millions already invested in I-40 without going through the park? Of course not!

When selling Memphis to industry will, we be able to point with pride to the saving of Overton Park, or allow our competing communities to point out our stupidity in permitting the destruction of a priceless asset?

E.W. HEINRICH

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